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fails to halt
rail strike, Page 10

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World news Business summary

Offer fails to satisfy French strikers

Further concessions to the strikers, including the withdrawal of controversial new merit-linked pay scales, failed to end the two-week conflict crippling France's railway system.

Rail services yesterday were reduced to their lowest level since the strike began. But the Government refuses to yield on the 3 per cent limit it has set on public-sector pay rises. Page 10

Afghan ceasefire

Afghan leader Najibullah ordered a ceasefire from January 15 in the seven-year war between his Moslem-backed Government and Moslem guerrillas, Kabul Radio reported. But the main guerrilla alliance rejected it. Page 2

Hotel fire kills 41

Puerto Rican officials are investigating the possibility of arson in a New Year's Eve fire at a luxury beachfront hotel which killed at least 41 people and left more than 100 in hospital. Survivors said they heard explosions and the sound of breaking glass before they saw smoke from the fire.

Reagan talk jammed

The Soviet Union broadcast part of President Reagan's New Year address on Moscow Radio, but the US embassy in Moscow said that his original address on Voice of America was heavily jammed. Page 2

Tehran blames US

An Iranian official blamed the suspension of financial talks with US representatives at The Hague on a "unilateral and abrupt" decision by the Americans.

Contras investigated

A US Congressional committee is investigating allegations that Contra rebels in Nicaragua have been involved in cocaine smuggling and gun-running. Page 2

Dublin gas blasts

Two people died and three were missing after two suspected gas explosions ripped through a Dublin block of flats. Five firemen were hurt by falling masonry as they searched through rubble.

Cardinal apologises

Cardinal John O'Connor, Archbishop of New York, apologised to Israelis for a controversy caused when he cancelled meetings with government leaders in Jerusalem on Vatican orders. He said at the start of a five-day visit that the fault was his for failing to understand protocol.

Niger President ill

President Seyni Kountché of Niger was rushed to Paris overnight for emergency medical treatment, the French Foreign Ministry said. Kountché, 55, is reported to have suffered a cerebral haemorrhage.

Greeks get VAT

Greece introduced value-added tax (VAT) on goods and services, ranging from 6 per cent on wine and dairy produce to 36 per cent on luxuries, including coffee and cigarettes.

Premier chases thief

Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers chased through the streets of Rotterdam after a thief who had broken into his wife's car. He and his son seized a man and handed him over to police.

Mugabe promise

Although Zimbabwe failed to meet its self-imposed December 31 deadline for imposing economic sanctions against South Africa, Prime Minister Robert Mugabe says sanctions will be implemented "soon".

Sorry, wrong year

The Bonn Government has demanded an apology from West Germany's main television network for broadcasting a New Year message by Chancellor Helmut Kohl that was a year out of date. It ended with him wishing the nation "a peaceful 1986". Page 2

China students in mass protest on arrests

BY ROBERT THOMPSON IN PEKING

ABOUT 4,000 university students marched through Peking streets early today and demanded the release of the protesters detained by police at a demonstration yesterday.

The students sang the international and chanted "release our friends" as they walked towards the city centre.

After having swept through several lines of police, the mass of students halted at an intersection in the west of the city, where they were addressed by Peking University's vice-chancellor, Shi Jianxun, who said the detained students had been released 30 minutes earlier and pleaded with them to return to their campus dormitories.

The study body was in two minds, with the majority happy to have won the release of the students and a minority wanting to press on to Tiananmen Square scene of yesterday's demonstration. After about 20 minutes of indecision, the bulk of students began the two-hour walk home, while 200 to 300 pressed on through freshly fallen snow to the city centre.

Police had been instructed not to arrest the marchers, even though they were flouting a new law requiring march organisers to give police five days' notice of a planned demonstration. If the police had continued the pattern of arrests set at Tiananmen, the protest-arrest chain reaction could easily have become uncontrollable.

The students' victory in securing an assurance of the freedom of those arrested is likely to intensify the pressure within the Government to take a tougher line against protesters. As such, the Government has suffered a severe loss of face, and conservative officials are likely to stress that fact.

The Communist Government has refused to recognise the existence of the democracy movement and blamed the protest yesterday on a few agitators. It claims to have uncovered Taiwanese-backed conspiracy and a new political group allegedly seeking to overthrow communist rule.

But the students' banners yesterday called for the "protection of Deng Xiaoping", the Chinese leader, and denounced "conservatives" and "reactionaries" in the Communist Party who, the students say, are attempting to slow the country's ambitious reform programme.

The Chinese press this week has carried statements from several conservative officials, who have criticised "bourgeois liberalism" and the stress on "commodity production" at the expense of ideology.

Students gathered in the morning on the fringe of Tiananmen Square, most of which was cordoned off by police and had been watered earlier so that a new layer of slippery ice would hinder protesters in the sub-zero temperatures. Small groups of students walked around the fringe and, until lines of police were ordered to clear the entire square, it appeared that the planned protest would not get off the ground.

When the police moved, a crush resulted, and several hundred protesters surged through the police lines, they pushed towards the monument to people's heroes, an obelisk in the centre of the square, where they were confronted by more police and where one or two protesters were arrested.

Students were dragged along the ice and hauled into waiting police buses, while police cameramen filmed the demonstrators, who continued to chant "you can't arrest us" and were eventually forced towards a huge portrait of the late Mao-Tse Tung at the entrance to the Forbidden City.

The Government last night blamed a "few trouble makers who will be investigated according to law", some of whom were taken away for "education and interrogation".

Student expectations had been raised by Government talk of "political reform", although few details have been given about what kind of reform it has in mind.

The campus campaign has included successive demonstrations in Shanghai and 10 other cities, and the surfacing of hundreds of protest posters. The campaign reached a new high with the Peking protest, which the Government tried to stop with a saturation media campaign and counselling on campus.

One 25-year-old Peking University politics student at Tiananmen Square yesterday said he was committed to supporting the campaign because he believed in freedom of the press and because students should keep up the momentum of the democracy movement.

Other students said they were prepared to go to jail for their beliefs, which are often not clearly defined. The students want the political system to be more representative and demand a freer press, but they are vague about exactly what kind of political system they want.

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EEC sets scene for trade dispute with US

By Quentin Poel in Brussels

EUROPEAN retaliation for threatened US tariff increases on key food and drink exports such as gin, brandy, white wine, cheese, tinned ham and olives could be finalised within two weeks, setting the scene for outright trade hostilities in February.

At the same time, a date is expected to be fixed next week for a final effort for the two sides to settle their dispute over compensation for some \$400m to \$500m in lost US grain sales to Spain.

The European retaliation would hit US exports of corn gluten feed, rice and wheat, as agreed by the EEC Council of Ministers last June when the dispute first came to a head. Only the details of implementation and the size of tariffs to be levied would remain to be determined within two weeks of any US decision to act.

Both sides are then likely to come to the negotiating table with their weapons in the open as they seek to narrow a yawning gap in their respective positions on what is described in both Washington and Brussels as the most difficult and potentially damaging trade conflict they have faced in recent years.

The US measures announced just before the New Year are carefully designed to bring pressure to bear on most EEC member states. Gin with hit Britain, brandy and cognac hit France, cheese affects France and the Netherlands, white wine is aimed at West Germany and olives at the Mediterranean countries. (Whisky is not included in the US measures - as mistakenly suggested in Wednesday's FT).

Any European retaliation would be intended to affect the same farm lobbies, bringing pressure to bear on Washington to fight for full compensation for the loss of maize and sorghum sales in Spain. Corn gluten feed is simply a by-product of maize used in animal feed while rice and wheat will also hit the major grain producers and traders.

The heart of the argument is the US claim that it should be compensated specifically for the loss of its maize and sorghum sales to Spain before that country joined the EEC a year ago. Since then, US feedgrains have been subject to leaves effectively pricing them out of the market, where they have been progressively replaced by French maize and British barley.

The EEC argument is that the US losses are partly compensated by gains in other areas: higher sales of soybeans, for example, and of in-

Continued on Page 10

Pöhl gives warning on impact of \$ fall as US deficit soars

BY LIONEL BARBER IN WASHINGTON AND ANDREW FISHER IN FRANKFURT

MR KARL OTTO PÖHL, president of the West German Bundesbank, said a further marked fall in the dollar would put at risk continued economic growth in West Germany and the rest of Europe and lead to higher inflation and interest rates in the US.

His remarks coincided with news that the US trade deficit topped to a record \$19.2bn last November, making likely congressional pressure for a protectionist trade bill early in the year.

The deficit was far higher than Wall Street and government economists had forecast. It raised doubts about official optimism that the US manufacturing sector was recovering its competitive edge.

News of the trade deficit pushed the dollar down and gold up in the US and Europe at the close on Wednesday. However, market reaction was concentrated into a short period and markets cooled through the rest of the session in this pre-holiday trading.

In New York, the dollar closed down 0.028 pennies at DM 1.921. In London, the pound closed 1.35 cents lower at \$1.425. Gold rose by \$14 an ounce to \$404.

The rise in the November deficit means the imbalance between US imports and exports is running at an annual rate of \$17.7bn.

US officials had predicted that the impact of a sharply lower dollar would remove some pressure on the trade deficit, while economists argued that foreign goods should have become more expensive in the vast US market.

Mr Pöhl, in a year-end article in the Handelsblat business newspaper, said the continuing weakening of the dollar - its close at DM 1.94 on December 31 in Frankfurt compared with DM 2.48 a year ago - would not help to close the US current account deficit, at least in the short term.

Mr Pöhl repeated his view that the level of about DM 2 for the dollar was much more in accord with economic fundamentals than 18 months ago.

Mr Pöhl said that despite the level of its current account deficit, the US had been behaving like a country with a surplus. This was possible, he thought, while the rest of the world was prepared to accumulate dollar investments. But he warned: "There is no guarantee that this will remain the case to such an extent in the future. We have seen in the 1970s how the dollar reserve currency could suffer a crisis of confidence."

Mr Pöhl and his colleagues at the Bundesbank have resisted pressure for further interest rate cuts, mainly from the US, arguing that the rapid rise in money supply provided plenty of scope for continued growth in Germany.

Last month he again ruled out a cut in the 5.5 per cent discount rate before or after the German general election on January 25 - which the present conservative Government is expected to win.

In the Handelsblat article, he said Germany had done more to fulfil its responsibilities as a "surplus" country than any other nation.

The US November figures show a deficit across a broad range of manufactured goods and countries. In manufactured goods, the shortfall rose to \$18.7bn, including a record \$4.9bn for car imports. Imports also rose for steel, textiles, and office machines.

The deficit with Japan hit a record \$6.74bn in November and rose to a total of \$24.75bn for the first 11 months of last year, compared with \$49.7bn in 1985.

The total unmet deficit for the year of 11 months amounts to \$158.12bn against \$133.33bn in 1985, making it likely that the 1986 outturn will be well above \$170bn.

The Commerce Department also revealed that it had revised earlier figures on the October trade deficit from an earlier estimate of \$12.06bn to \$14.71bn.

Trade in agricultural commodities - the source of current tension with the EEC - nevertheless recorded its fourth monthly surplus. In November, farm trade showed a \$158.12bn against \$133.33bn, with agricultural exports totalling \$2.51bn.

November's exports overall totalled \$18.5bn, down from \$19.2bn during October, of which some \$12.8bn came from US manufactured goods.

Botha's election plan welcomed by white parties

BY ANTHONY ROBINSON IN CAPE TOWN

LEADERS of South Africa's main white opposition parties have welcomed President P. W. Botha's announcement in his New Year address to the nation that elections for white voters would be held later this year.

Mr Botha said in a television interview that he had several dates in mind but that the final decision would be announced on January 30 at the opening of parliament.

Mr Colin Eglin, leader of the official opposition Progressive Federal Party (PFF) said that his party hoped to increase its representation in the 178 seat House of Assembly from 27 to at least 40 seats. Spokesmen for the right-wing Conservative (CP) and Herstigte Nasionale (HN) parties saw the election as an opportunity for the right to challenge the National Party's dominant position. It currently holds 127 seats compared with only 18 for the CP and one for the HN.

Five out of the last seven elections since the Afrikaner-dominated National Party came to power in 1948 have taken place in April, and this remains the most likely month for the first white election for six years. Elections are normally held every five years, but when the Government introduced a new constitution in September 1984, it ruled that the 1984 election would be a major plank in an election at which whites would be asked to endorse the Government's timetable for "an evolutionary process" of change.

At the same time it does not want to risk a repeat performance of the 1984 elections to the coloured and Indian houses which were marred by violent opposition, boycotts and a low voter turnout.

In his New Year address Mr Botha indicated that resistance to foreign "interference" in South Africa's affairs would be a major plank in an election at which whites would be asked to endorse the Government's timetable for "an evolutionary process" of change.

segregated parliament could then take place within the same five-year span.

The Government has now decided to hold elections in the white House of Assembly only. This reflects belief that electoral support for right-wing white parties has declined as a result of its tough law and order policies, improving short-term economic prospects and its defiance of US and other foreign pressures.

An Indian youth was stabbed to death after angry passengers from a train delayed at signals rampaged through a campaign at Winkelspruit, south of Durban. In a separate incident, police used teargas and shotguns to disperse a mob looting an ice cream kiosk on a beach reserved for blacks in Durban. Seven people were injured.

IBM, Merrill Lynch abandon electronic information system

BY RODERICK ORAM IN NEW YORK

A MUCH-VAUNTED joint venture to bring sophisticated electronic information systems to the US financial services industry has been abandoned by IBM and Merrill Lynch, the world's largest retail investment broker, after less than three years.

In a terse New Year's Eve statement, the companies said they were winding up International MarketNet (Imnet) after reassessing "the financial viability of the venture."

Some users said Imnet's high-priced services had fallen well short of those promised when the company was launched in March 1984. If successful, it would have been stiff competition for existing suppliers of financial information such as Reuters, Telestar and Quotron.

Imnet joins a long list of office or home information systems which have run into trouble. Last month, for example, CBS, one of the big three US television networks, withdrew from Tritel, a failing videotext service set up in 1984 by IBM and Sears Roebuck, the huge US retailer. Two newspaper groups closed their own videotext services in 1986.

As Imnet was conceived, investors and bankers would have used desktop IBM personal computers to draw on a wide range of financial market information and services such as stock prices and analysts' reports supplied via telecommunications links from central computers. IBM's computing skills and Merrill Lynch's financial services appeared to be a potent combination.

Shortly after Imnet's launch, Mr Joseph Castellano, its chief executive, forecast that "in five or six years we think the market for MarketNet could be as big as \$1bn."

The only product Imnet sold in volume, however, was an equities analysis software programme which was not on-line to the Imnet network. A sophisticated portfolio management system for use in Merrill's retail offices and for sale to other brokers was still being developed.

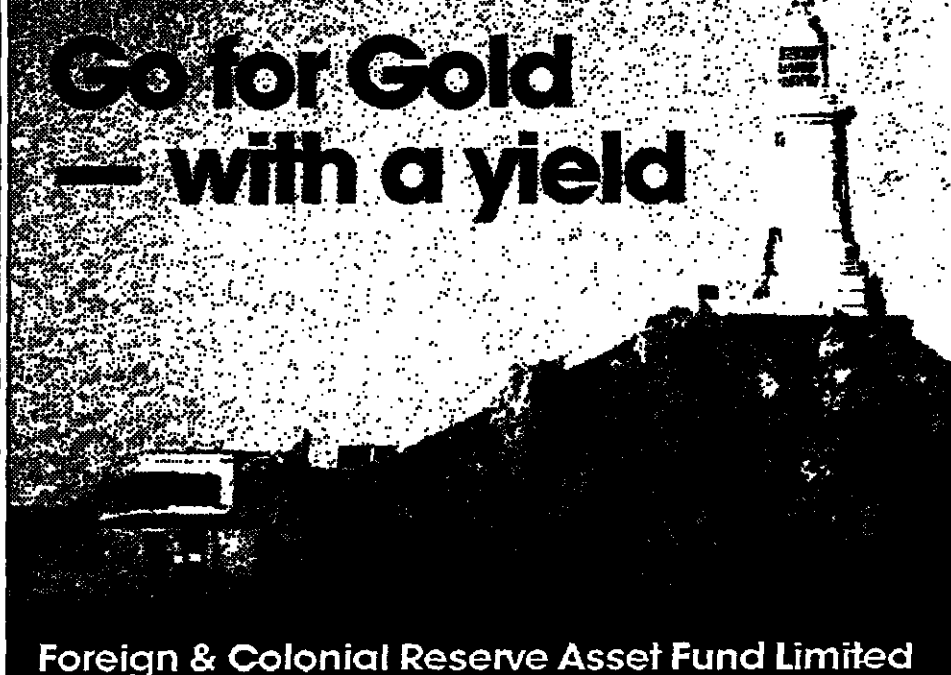
A recent IBM initiated study of Imnet concluded the venture "would not be profitable for a long, long time and might never be profitable at all," according to an Imnet official quoted in the statement.

The companies said the closing of Imnet would have no significant effect on their 1986 or 1987 earnings. Both groups are trying to bolster their earnings by weeding out ventures which are either too-making or no longer central to their business strategies.

Much of what Imnet failed to deliver is available, however, on StreetSense, a wide ranging desktop computer service launched four months ago by Citibank, the largest US banking group. StreetSense services, which include share trading, cost under \$500 a month.

Citibank, which is reputed to spend \$1bn a year building up and running its computer and telecommunications operations, paid \$800m six months ago for Quotron Systems, a leading supplier of financial information. Some banks and brokers were unhappy that a main vendor of information such as stock prices had been sold to a competitor.

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OVERSEAS NEWS

South Africa's ruling National Party now believes it is strong enough to maintain support at the polls, Anthony Robinson reports

Botha seeks mandate from white electorate for an unidentified agenda

PRESIDENT P. W. Botha has been teasing South Africa's white electorate about elections for months. Now, in his new year message, ostensibly to the country at large but mainly aimed at whites, he has told them they can deliver their verdict this year.

The exact date will only be revealed when he opens parliament on January 30 but the official judgment, that the ruling National Party believes it is strong enough to seek, and obtain, a new mandate from whites has been made.

In theory Mr Botha had no need to call a general election for all three racially separate houses of the tri-cameral parliament until August 1989. That would have been five years after the introduction of the new constitution in September 1984 which brought coloureds and Asians into the parliamentary system and gave Coloured-style powers to the state president but ignored the still unfranchised black majority.

By deciding to hold elections for the white house of assembly only Mr Botha has confirmed what critics of the tri-cameral system have always maintained, that it is only the white house which really matters. Even that is hotly disputed by many, including the former leader of the opposition Dr V. F. van der Merwe, who resigned a

year ago calling the parliamentary system in South Africa 'a farce'.

In the eyes of President Botha, and other leaders of the National Party which has ruled without interruption since 1948, the white mandate for the new constitution and the long list of apartheid 'reforms' introduced over the last 30 months stemmed not from the last whites only election, in April 1981, but from the white only referendum of November 1985.

On that occasion 68 per cent voted yes for the Government's cautious reform programme. But the party's right wing, which broke away to form the Conservative Party (CP) under Dr Andries Treurnicht in February 1982, refused to accept the referendum as a mandate. Instead it has continually accused the Government of being afraid to face the right wing challenge and of acting illegitimately by not calling elections last year, within five years of April 1981.

Last year the Government was widely perceived to have lost its political initiative. It seriously undermined the depth of black anger at exclusion from the 1984 constitution and was taken back by the speed with which a new broadly based anti-apartheid coalition, the United Democratic Front (UDF) sprang up to articulate

and organise resistance throughout the country.

What also threw its carefully prepared 'reform' strategy of the rails was the coincidence of heavily boycotted elections to the new coloured and Asian houses with the onset of the deepest economic recession since the war.

Political and economic discontent came together in September 1984 with violent riots on the East Rand. Since then South Africans have been involved in a low-level civil war accompanied by a dramatic increase in black politicalisation, the re-emergence of the African National Congress (ANC) as a major factor in the South African power equation, and the growing international isolation of Pretoria.

All of this was accompanied by growing signs of a white backlash and the risk of a split in Afrikanerdom which would have jeopardised the power base of Afrikaner hegemony, and by extension of continuing white control.

This key principle of post-1948 white politics — that Afrikaner unity is essential if white state power is to be preserved intact — is also the key to interpreting all that has happened since May 1986, in retrospect the beginning of the election campaign. The UDF's challenge of alleged ANC bases in neigh-



President P. W. Botha

bouring Botswana, Zimbabwe and Zambia — scuppering the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group (EPG) marked the end of Pretoria's attempt to gain domestic and international recognition for its reforms.

The top priority moved instead to undercutting the growing support for the right-wing political and para-military organisations by moving the National Party itself bodily to the right and stealing the opposition's thunder.

On June 12 a new and wider state of emergency was re-introduced. This has since

Zimbabwe will "soon" implement economic sanctions against South Africa, Mr Robert Mugabe, the prime minister, said in a New Year's eve address. Tony Hawkins reports from Harare.

Last year, Mr Mugabe said Zimbabwe would impose sanctions before the end of 1986, but he told the nation it had been necessary to delay the announcement pending the report of government task forces set up to develop a sanctions strategy.

While businessmen and some Western diplomats have welcomed the delay on the

ground that it suggests some back-tracking by Mr Mugabe in face of overwhelming evidence of the adverse effects on the Zimbabwe economy of sanctions, it remains clear that Zimbabwe will impose a sanctions package within a few months.

President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique said in his New Year message that South Africa had used anti-Marxist guerrillas "as an instrument of aggression against our country," and by driving peasants from their homes as a result, had been the major cause of a threatened famine.

The main aim of the Conservative Party will be to gain enough seats to overtake the PFP as the official opposition. To do this it will need to forge an electoral pact of sorts with the Herstigte Nasionale Party (HNP), the original right wing breakaway party which only last year gained its first seat at the Sasolburg by-election.

To keep its position as the official opposition the party is seeking an electoral alliance with the dying New Republic Party (NRP), which has only five seats. It must also persuade nervous, mainly English speaking liberals to support it to switch tactically to the NP where the latter is seriously challenged by the right.

At the end of what is expected to be a short but hard

helped to create more favourable pre-electoral conditions. Foremost among these are higher gold, platinum and diamond prices and, above all, in the conservative farming plateau, good rains which have finally broken the drought in many areas.

In short electoral prospects for the National Party, which at present holds 127 of the total 178 seats in the house of assembly compared with 27 for the Progressive Federal Party (PFP) and only 18 for the Conservative Party (CP), look much better than for long time.

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To keep its position as the official opposition the party is seeking an electoral alliance with the dying New Republic Party (NRP), which has only five seats. It must also persuade nervous, mainly English speaking liberals to support it to switch tactically to the NP where the latter is seriously challenged by the right.

At the end of what is expected to be a short but hard

fought campaign, President Botha will almost certainly get his mandate. The question remains — for what.

After eight years in power Mr Botha and his Government, marginally rejuvenated and streamlined in a reshuffle months ago, have nothing more than a reform to offer than evolutionary reform "based on a mixture of coercion and attempted co-optation of 'moderate' blacks at a local government level and in an advisory capacity in the proposed 'national statutory council'."

Bold moves, like the release of ANC leader Nelson Mandela, and the unbanning of the ANC, or even the scrapping of the apartheid pillars like the Group Areas Act, are not the agenda — and right wing on the agenda — a "hidden agenda" warnings of a "hidden agenda" are likely to be hotly denied during the campaign.

At the end of the day South Africa will probably be faced with more of the same. But it will not just how powerful will white right wing really be for the first time. In the end this could determine the pace and direction of Government change in the years ahead as well as influence the choice of a new National Party leader for the 1990s where the hard decisions about South Africa's future will have to be faced.

Nigeria announces cautious budget to boost recovery

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

NIGERIA'S military leader, President Ibrahim Babangida, yesterday outlined a cautious budget for 1987 to reinforce an economic recovery programme drawn up with the support of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

Stressing the theme of austerity and self-reliance, the President said that measures introduced over the past 12 months, which have included an effective 60 per cent devaluation of the naira, would "help to correct the long years of paying only lip service to national self-reliance."

The President's anticipated total revenue in 1987 at N17.8bn (\$5.4bn), underlined to be based on an expected average price for Nigeria's oil of about \$18 per barrel. Oil accounts for over 90 per cent of the country's export earnings.

The price is well below the Opec target of \$18 per barrel, but government economic planners said they wished to err on the side of caution.

The President's speech did not provide detailed budget figures. These will be released today.

General Babangida said the slump in international oil prices last year had caused serious difficulties for Nigeria, and the balance of payments deficit on the current account was esti-

mated at N760m, compared to a N1.1bn surplus in 1985.

The President said Nigeria would continue to limit requirements of external debt to 30 per cent of export earnings, a measure introduced in the budget a year ago. Over the past few months the Government has managed to reschedule a substantial proportion of the country's estimated total external debt of \$22bn, concluding negotiations with western commercial banks and government creditors.

In a separate development, the Nigerian News Agency reported that Nigeria Airways is to be divided into three companies in an effort to put the heavily indebted airline on a viable footing.

Among its debts is over \$12m owed to the ticket clearing house of the International Air Transport Association (IATA). The association last month suspended Nigeria from its ticketing facilities. Nigeria Airways can no longer issue tickets for flights beyond the cities served directly by the airline.

The agency said that under the restructuring, a new Nigeria Airways would handle international flights, a separate airline would operate domestic travel and a third company would be responsible for cargo services.

Lavi flies into cloud of doubt over funding

BY OUR JERUSALEM CORRESPONDENT

ISRAEL'S Lavi fighter took to the skies for the first time on Wednesday and flew into a cloud of uncertainty about future funding for its development and production.

Research and development have already taken over seven years and cost over \$1bn (\$709m).

Dr Dov Zakheim, the Pentagon official who was assessing the Lavi project, is due in Israel shortly to present other proposals for Israel's next generation of fighter aircraft.

These are expected to include a modified and updated version of the F-16 already in service with the Israeli Air Force which would incorporate much of the avionics electronics developed for the Lavi.

The Pentagon fears the US will have to bear the burden of the cost overruns it predicts for the Lavi. Israel puts a unit price of \$15m on the aircraft, whereas the Pentagon believes the price will be near \$22m.

Single growth and high

private spending characterised the Israeli economy in 1986, according to the National Accounts estimates released by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Israel's gross domestic product rose only 1 per cent last year, after a 2 per cent increase in each of the past two years, with industrial productivity showing no increase whatsoever.

Private consumption rose by 12 per cent, almost approaching its record high of 1983.

Total investment declined by 7 per cent, largely due to the sharper downturn in residential construction which has characterised the past few years.

The country's imports rose by 15 per cent in 1986, while exports went up by only 6 per cent. Although slumping world oil prices gave the country an estimated \$600m, the trade deficit, expanded by \$620m to \$2.5bn. Taking military imports into account, however, the deficit remains stable at its 1985 level of \$4bn.

Singapore premier sees 3-4% growth this year

BY STEVEN BUTLER IN SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE'S economy grew by 1.9 per cent last year, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore's Prime Minister, said in a New Year message.

The positive growth indicates that Singapore has turned around from the deep recession that struck in 1985, Mr Lee, however, said the buoyancy of previous years would not return in 1987, and predicted the economy would grow by only 3-4 per cent this year.

The recovery has been led by the manufacturing sector and by transport and communication. Commerce, financial and business services and construc-

tion remain a drag on the economy.

"We had 1.9 per cent (growth) with half the economy standing still," Brig-Gen Lee Hsien Loong, Trade and Industry Minister, who is the Prime Minister's son, said.

The Singapore Government has rejected an appeal from Time Magazine to lift an order that has severely curtailed its circulation there.

The order was invoked after Time refused to publish unedited letters correcting alleged factual errors in an article about Singapore's political opposition.

Bonn TV broadcasts wrong Kohl message

By Andrew Fisher in Frankfurt

THERE were red faces all around at West Germany's main television channel yesterday and angry comments from the Chancellor's office after the network showed the wrong New Year's message by Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Instead of transmitting the message for 1987, the ARD channel broadcast one that was a year out of date. The outdated speech was shown in full, with Mr Kohl wishing viewers a peaceful 1986.

An ARD spokesman said the Government was not angry. He demanded that the network broadcast the correct message last night. The right speech was shown on ZDF, the second channel.

ARD said it regretted the error and said that those responsible for it should be made to answer. The showing of the wrong message was an insult to viewers, he added.

It could not just be explained away as a technical mistake, he said. A general election to be held later this month, he implied, that the broadcast could have resulted from political motives.

The television channel said the incident appeared to have been a genuine mistake. The message was pre-recorded for showing on both the main West German networks.

ARD put out the 1986 Kohl message just before New Year's Eve variety concert.

Yugoslavia aims for 3% economic growth this year

By Aleksander Ledi

YUGOSLAVIA will aim for a 3 per cent economic growth in 1987, and hopes to boost export growth by 4.5 per cent while keeping the rise in imports to 4 per cent.

The plan for the coming year also includes a target growth of 2.5 per cent, investment growth of 4 per cent, employment growth of 2.5 per cent and a 1.1 per cent rise in labour productivity.

The federal parliament has just approved these targets which represent a lowering of earlier, more ambitious targets which the Government dismissed as unrealistic.

The plan for the coming year also includes a target growth of 2.5 per cent, investment growth of 4 per cent, employment growth of 2.5 per cent and a 1.1 per cent rise in labour productivity.

Foreign journalists, joined by Iraqi notables, are being brought to the marshy island of Umm al Rassas, in the Shatt al Arab waterway dividing the two adversaries to view the site of the latest battle in the war.

Iraqi officials say more than 50,000 Iraqis attacked Umm al Rassas and four other small islands as part of a "ferocious" Christmas eve assault along a 40 km stretch of the border from around Abadan in the south to a point 13 km west of Basra, Iraq's second largest city. Basra is the predicted target of the "final offensive" Iraq has been threatening for months.

Kabul orders ceasefire from January 15

AFGHAN leader Mr Najibullah has ordered a cease-fire beginning on January 15 in the more than seven years of war between his Soviet-backed Government and the Islamic fundamentalists.

The Kabul Government has been backed by about 115,000 Soviet troops since the December 1979 Soviet intervention to prop up Afghanistan's Government.

"National reconciliation begins with ceasefire," the radio quoted Mr Najibullah as saying in his speech. It broadcast excerpts after the main night bulletins which did not mention the reference to a ceasefire.

The radio, monitored in Islamabad, quoted him as telling the Communist Party central committee that the cease-fire would be temporary but could be made permanent if the Islamic fundamentalists would be satisfied.

The announcement was made six days after the seventh anniversary of the Soviet intervention.

NY State votes on greater role for banks

BY WILLIAM HALL IN NEW YORK

THE NEW YORK State Banking Department, which regulates the affairs of some of the highest banks in the US, has ruled that New York State chartered banks, such as Morgan Guaranty Trust and Bankers Trust, can underwrite securities.

The decision, which came in the form of an interpretation of a New York State law, is likely to heighten the debate about the continued usefulness of the Glass-Steagall Act, the 1933 law prohibiting commercial banks from engaging in a wide range of investment banking activities.

The New York State Banking Department, which was asked by several New York banks to interpret the state's own version of the Glass-Steagall Act, has indicated that subsidiaries

US launches inquiry into Contra 'cocaine smuggling'

A CONGRESSIONAL committee is investigating allegations that Contra rebels in Nicaragua have been involved in cocaine smuggling and gun-running.

The House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime Investigation is one of several Congressional inquiries launched since the Reagan Administration announced that up to \$30m profits from secret arms sales to Iran had been siphoned off to the Contras.

Allegations of Contra involvement in narcotics trafficking appeared in a report drawn up last year by Sen John Kerry, a Massachusetts Democrat. The illegal trade was allegedly aimed at raising money for the rebels.

Separately, some \$2m of the \$4m paid by Iran in late October for the last shipment of arms was retained after the release of the American hostage David Jacobson.

has gone missing, according to a report in yesterday's Washington Post.

Moscow's Reagan message

BY PATRICK COCKBURN IN MOSCOW

THE Soviet Union yesterday broadcast part of President Ronald Reagan's New Year's address to the Soviet people on Moscow radio but the US embassy claimed that his original broadcast on Voice of America was heavily jammed.

Earlier Mr Gorbachev had declined an exchange of New Year speeches between himself and President Reagan as happened at the beginning of 1986.

Canada to put 15% tax on lumber shipments to US

BY LIONAL BARBER IN WASHINGTON

CANADA has agreed to impose a 15 per cent export tax on softwood lumber shipments to the US, resolving a bitter trade dispute.

The tax takes effect from January 8 but may boost the price of new homes in the US.

The Canadian lumber industry attacked the agreement which was reached after 49 hours' talks in Washington on Wednesday morning.

Mr Adam Zimmerman, president of Macmillan Bloedel, Canada's largest forest company, said "in one step, it

Chile exiles can return

BY LIONAL BARBER IN WASHINGTON

Chilean President Augusto Pinochet announced yesterday that he would allow most exiled political opponents to return home and would not renew a state of siege when it expired next month.

The state of siege, the second toughest in a battery of emergency measures open to the military government, was declared hours after a failed attempt on the life of General

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Belgium agrees plan to cut pit losses

The Belgian Cabinet has agreed a plan designed to cut losses sustained by the country's coal mining industry.

The plan reduces the flow of state cash to the industry, the most heavily subsidised in the European Community from Bfr 5.5bn (\$1.6bn) a year at present to Bfr 4.8bn in 1988, and involves the loss of 8,200 jobs through pit closures.

Tamils to form party

Sri Lanka's largest guerrilla group will soon form a political party to press its demand for an independent Tamil state, Mr Sathesivam Krishnakumar, northern commander of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, said yesterday.

The plan reduces the flow of state cash to the industry, the most heavily subsidised in the European Community from Bfr 5.5bn (\$1.6bn) a year at present to Bfr 4.8bn in 1988, and involves the loss of 8,200 jobs through pit closures.

Lebanon camp war

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said yesterday that 80,000 Palestinian refugees had so far been forced out of camps in Lebanon in the current fighting there.

The "camps war" between Palestinians and Shiite Moslems from the Lebanese Amal militia group has been raging for the past three months, killing more than 700 people.

Israeli troops fired rubber bullets at Palestinian protesters yesterday during clashes marking the 22nd anniversary of the founding of the PLO's mainstream Fatah branch.

Marcos warns Manila

Ousted president Ferdinand Marcos urged Filipinos yesterday to stop Americans meddling in the country's affairs as he said they had when he was "practically kidnapped" and taken to Hawaii in February.

In a New Year radio broadcast from Honolulu, he warned of a "violent explosion" and a possible Communist takeover in the Philippines in 1987.

Last year was one of commercial aviation's safest years, after a rash of airline crashes in 1985 that claimed more than 1,600 lives worldwide, industry officials said yesterday.



Saddam Hussein, providing an upbeat finale to a year in which Iraq lost the Faw Peninsula at the mouth of the Shatt al Arab and the Iranian town of Mehran on the central front, which Iraq

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OVERSEAS NEWS

Tokyo brushes off fears over growth raised by austere budget

BY CARLA RAPOPORT AND IAN RODGER IN TOKYO

THE JAPANESE Government claims there will be lots of pep in Japan's economy this year in spite of the adoption of this week of an austere budget that freezes overall Government spending.

The budget was otherwise notable for its approval of a 5.2 per cent increase in defence spending, which means that Japan's defence outlays will just break through the 1 per cent of gross national product (GNP) ceiling set 10 years ago. (This move is certain to be bitterly debated in the Diet (parliament) in the next few months.)

Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Japanese Prime Minister, said on Wednesday that the Government had to choose between respecting the guideline and sticking to its 10-year military build-up plan agreed last year. In this view, the military situation around Japan made the build-up essential.

The budget anticipates overall 1987 revenues of ¥45,500bn (¥186.5bn) in the year beginning April 1, 1987, up 1.6 per cent on the current year. Overall spending would rise only 0.1 per cent to ¥44,101bn. The budget's austerity is in line with the Government's determination to bring spending into line with revenue by 1990 and begin reducing Government indebtedness. Debt service costs will amount to 20 per cent of fiscal 1987 revenue.

Most private sector economists fear that the effect of



Nakasone—essential buildup

the budget means that the Japanese economy will grow very slowly next year, perhaps by less than 2 per cent. They say the high yen will prevent much of the manufacturing sector from expanding, while the lack of Government stimulus will leave the domestic economy sluggish.

The Government disagrees, arguing that while its own public works spending will decline by 2.3 per cent, it has authorised capital spending loans from the postal savings system to the private sector of ¥27.061bn, up 22.3 per cent. This increase in the so-called fiscal investment and loans programme means that the total

increase in public works spending will be more than 5 per cent.

That, plus Tokyo's encouragement to local authorities to raise capital spending, should enable the economy to grow by 3.5 per cent, the government says.

The other sector to enjoy a significant increase in the budget is foreign aid. Government officials said the 5.8 per cent increase in its official development assistance to ¥658bn in fiscal 1987 would enable it to stay on target to honour its pledge to spend \$400m on overseas development assistance between 1986 and 1993.

The 1987 budget calls for a cut in public works spending to ¥4,000bn, from ¥4,200bn this year. Other areas which will face smaller allocations include energy projects, down 21.4 per cent, small business incentives, down 2.8 per cent and food subsidies, down 4.1 per cent. Government allocations to local government will be held unchanged at ¥10,184bn.

Areas which will enjoy a higher budget allocation to defence and foreign aid include social security, up 2.6 per cent, and pensions, up 2.5 per cent. Increased spending on pensions and social security reflect the rapidly ageing population in Japan, something which Japanese officials say will become a more pressing problem as the century draws to a close.

France awards FF950m loan to Indonesia

By John Murray Brown in Jakarta

FRANCE this week signed a FF950m (€101m) concessional loan agreement with Indonesia, just inside the year-end deadline for French aid allocations. The agreement is part of soft loan and part of a credit line, supported by Coface, the Government's credit insurance agency. Tied to French project costs in Indonesia, the package was signed in Paris by Mr Daniel Lebegre, director of the French Treasury at the Ministry of Finance.

France, past master of the mixed credit, follows Japan, the UK and the US and West Germany in meeting Indonesia's aggressive loan terms introduced by President Suharto in 1984.

Indonesia has recently won terms which involve repayments over 25 years, a seven-year grace period and an interest rate of 3.5 per cent. Alcatel, the French telecommunications group, is pursuing a 240,000 telephone line contract for rural Indonesia, said to be worth as much as \$1bn.

Another year Japan provided Indonesia with \$550m in soft loans while the UK reached a \$140m agreement in July.

West Germany agreed terms on a DM 300m mixed credit package, of which DM 100m is soft loan.

The US Exim Bank has offered a \$100m soft loan, still to be agreed.

Punjab deaths rise to 697

SUSPECTED Sikh extremists have killed three Punjab electric utility workers in continuing separatist violence in the northern Indian state. Reuter reports from New Delhi.

The killings brought to at least 697 the number of people killed in Punjab during 1986 in violence connected with extremists seeking an independent Sikh homeland.

Dragonair orders two MD11s from McDonnell

BY DAVID DODWELL IN HONG KONG

DRAGON Airlines of Hong Kong, the 30-month-old aviation group controlled by Sir Yue-Kong Pao, has ordered two McDonnell Douglas MD11s at a cost of about \$200m (£160m). It also has an option to buy a third MD11.

Dragonair is one of 12 airlines to order MD11s since McDonnell-Douglas of the US confirmed on December 29 that it would go ahead with plans to produce the three-engine, wide-bodied aircraft. McDonnell Douglas has so far won 53 firm orders, and 40 purchase options.

The purchase — for delivery in 1992 — amounts to a major statement of faith in Dragonair's future. The group is now operating just two leased Boeing 737s, and has been blocked in all of its efforts to win licences for long-haul routes.

The group, which was launched with an injection of HK\$500m in April 1985 by a group of prominent Hong Kong businessmen, has upset the British territory's establishment by breaking the monopoly of Cathay Pacific Airways as a Hong Kong-based carrier.

It has so far won the right to operate charter flights to six destinations in China, and scheduled flights to three destinations in Thailand. It has been controlled by Sir Y. K. Pao since a reshuffle of shareholdings 14 months ago.

Applications to operate routes to Peking and Shanghai in China, and to a number of

European destinations, have been refused after fierce protests from Cathay Pacific, which until a year ago was the only Hong Kong-based aviation group and is still regarded as the territory's flag carrier.

Only two weeks ago, Dragonair applied to Hong Kong's Air Traffic Licensing Authority (ATLA) for licences to fly to Guam, Nepal, four cities in southern Japan, and a further 14 destinations in mainland China.

Unbowed by past failures to win licences to operate services to London, it has made fresh applications to operate services to London, Stansted, Manchester, Glasgow and Birmingham, all via Copenhagen. It is also pressing for licences to serve a number of southern European destinations.

Mr Steve Miller, Dragonair's general manager, yesterday appeared unworried by the commitment to substantial investment without any guarantee as yet that the airline will win rights to operate long-haul routes. "This is a long-term game, and you have to plan ahead," he said. "We will get long haul traffic rights, there is no doubt about it."

The order represents the confidence of the shareholders of Dragonair, and shows they are serious about the long-term future of the airline.

The group has made substantial losses over the past year as it has fought to build up a network of services

Dhaka fisheries offer

BAKGLADESH will allow foreign companies to form joint ventures with Bangladesh to exploit the nation's potentially rich fishing grounds in the Bay of Bengal, Reuter reports.

Mr Sirajul Hossain Khan, the Fisheries and Livestock Minister said Bangladesh would

allow foreign fishing operations in its 117,000 sq km exclusive fishing zones with joint ventures giving a 51 per cent share to the Bangladesh partner. Bangladesh currently earns about \$90m a year from fish exports, mainly to the European Community, the US and Japan.

UK NEWS

Managers pay £51m for Fairey businesses

BY TERRY POVEY

PEARSON, THE industrial, banking and publishing group, has disposed of the last and biggest part of its Fairey engineering division through a £51m management buy-out completed on New Year's eve.

The deal is significant as it was the first to be financed by the £200m fund set up a year ago by Candover Investments to back large management buy-outs. Candover was formed in 1983 with the aim of expanding and financing buy-outs and providing development funds for unlisted companies.

Earlier this year Pearson, which owns the Financial Times, made clear its strategy of concentrating on "businesses where we see long-term competitive advantage". The main areas of the diversified holding company's continuing activities are in publishing and communica-

tions, fine china, merchant banking and oil services.

At its peak in 1984 Fairey contributed £14.1m to Pearson's trading profits. It was up for sale for most of last year. In April, Fairey's military bridge and nuclear operations were sold for £22m and later £455,000 came from the sale of Fairey Marine.

Mr Derek Kingsbury, who was chief executive of Fairey and is leading the buy-out team, said yesterday that while he felt "a little sad" that a major UK company was withdrawing from engineering, he was determined to keep the core of Fairey as a strong and independent unit.

The newly-independent company has four main businesses — aerospace products, ceramics, filtration

and electronics. Mr Kingsbury said that his management team had had to compete with various offers and wanted to "give credit to Candover for financing more than half of the deal".

Some £20m to back the £51.5m buy-out, which includes the repayment of a £7m inter-group loan, was provided by the Electra Candover Direct Investment Plan, to which 35 institutions have committed funds.

Mr Roger Brooke, chief executive of Candover, said that "after a year of being beaten by corporate offers, we were very pleased to be able to conclude this deal, and we expect to be announcing a slightly smaller one in the next week." The rest of the funding for Fairey was arranged through bankers Samuel Montagu.

Europe 'set for economic growth'

THE CHALLENGE for industrial economies this year will be to translate increases in real incomes into higher domestic production and capacity in order to provide a much-needed boost to employment prospects, the Oxford Economic Forecasting group says in its latest review.

The outlook for the major economies suggests a similar performance to 1986, with both output and prices rising by an average 2½ to 3 per cent.

A slight acceleration in the pace of output in West Germany is expected to be accompanied by a much stronger recovery in both Italy and France.

West Germany's economy is forecast to expand by 2.9 per cent in 1987 compared with 2.7 per cent last year. The growth rate in France may accelerate to 3.1 per cent this year from the 2.2 per cent seen in 1986, while in Italy it could rise to 3.3 per cent from 2.8 per cent.

In Britain the prospect is for economic growth of 2.4 per cent in 1987 compared with 2.1 per cent last year, the Oxford Group says. In parallel, Britain may face a temporary deficit on the current account of the balance of payments of around \$2bn and a rise in its inflation rate to 4.7 per cent, 2 percentage points higher than the average for the main economies.

THE GOVERNMENT'S proposal to give creditors the right to sue for interest on unpaid debts has been given support of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), the UK employers' organisation.

Mr Norman Rose, CBI deputy director of company affairs, said yesterday: "We feel it is unfair for creditors to be done out of their right to interest where debts are settled just before proceedings are started. We believe they should have the right to sue for such interest, and that awards should be left to the discretion of the court."

The employers' backing for the Government's move, announced recently by Mr David Trippier, junior minister at the Department of Employment, does not extend to the major change advocated by Mr Richard Ottaway, Conservative MP, which would give creditors an unqualified statutory right to interest.

The CBI's move is part of a new campaign to encourage early payment of bills, on which it will be publishing shortly a guidance booklet setting out "best practice" for all sizes of companies.

SMALL British companies have been effectively denied access to over £1bn worth of low cost loans from the European Community, according to the Confederation of British Industry (CBI).

Mr John Fetherston, chairman of the CBI's Smaller Firms Council, said the Government's withdrawal of currency exchange risk cover for loans in the past 18 months meant small British companies could not obtain them.

This was despite the fact that the British Government was instrumental in making cash available for the loans during the presidency of the community.

LLOYDS Merchant Bank says that Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, should be able to cut income tax by 2p in the pound in his spring budget. If oil prices were to hold at around \$18 a barrel, a 4p cut to 25p could not be ruled out, says the bank in its latest economic review.

Lloyd's says that 1987 will be a year of strong growth and buoyant consumer spending in Britain.

LONDON Daily News, the new London newspaper to be launched on February 10, has appointed a deputy managing director. He is Mr Jeremy Thompson, who used to be operations director of Mirror Group Newspapers, publishers of the London Daily News. Mr Thompson left MGN to launch the Racing Post in competition to MGN's Sporting Life.

Business failure rate continues to fall

BY RAYMOND SNOODY

BUSINESS failures in England and Wales fell last year for the second consecutive year. The latest survey by Dun & Bradstreet, the business information group, shows that business failures dropped by 1.3 per cent to 20,680.

Company liquidations fell to 13,689, a decrease of 674 on 1985. Bankruptcies among individuals, firms and partnerships rose by 411 to 6,991 during 1986.

In England, London and the South East were the worst hit with 9,903 company liquidations, a 4 per cent rise. This accounted for 50.4 per cent of the total in England and Wales. Bankruptcies in the area rose by 103 to 1,970, a 5.5 per cent rise.

The North East was particularly badly hit with an 18.7 per cent rise

in bankruptcies compared with last year.

Dun & Bradstreet believes the depression in the steel, chemical, clothing and heavy engineering industries affected not only the large companies but the small businesses which serve them.

Mr Keith Williams, managing director of Dun & Bradstreet, said that although the figures on overall business failures were optimistic, "the picture is still gloomy for small businesses".

The 8.2 per cent rise in bankruptcies had occurred despite a fall in the number of new businesses applying for VAT registration.

Dun & Bradstreet's constant estimate showed that those running small businesses tended to lack financial control and marketing skills.

How Eden plotted the downfall of Nasser

John Hunt looks at Cabinet papers 30 years after the Suez crisis

THE WAY in which Sir Anthony Eden, the Conservative Prime Minister, and Mr Selwyn Lloyd, the Foreign Secretary, misled parliament and the country over the Suez crisis in 1956 is disclosed in the Cabinet documents for that year which have been released by the Public Record Office.

The documents, now available for scrutiny under the 30-year rule, give the lie to the official line of the Government repeated by Sir Anthony in his broadcast to the nation — that British and French forces had invaded Egypt in November in order to separate the Israeli and Egyptian forces and stop the fighting.

They show that leading members of the Government had decided much earlier in the year that Col. Nasser, the Egyptian president, was a nationalist whose aim was to bring about the downfall of the present Egyptian Government. It was his policy to disavow Col Nasser's policies, order co-operation with the allied forces and be ready to negotiate an international regime for the Suez Canal. Any Egyptian attempt to overthrow this successor Government would have to be crushed.

It goes on "It is possible that Israel may take advantage of the situation to attack Egypt, or more probably Jordan. In the latter case, the Egyptian forces will be to bring about the formation of a new Egyptian Government which will disavow Col Nasser's policies, order co-operation with the allied forces and be ready to negotiate an international regime for the Suez Canal. Any Egyptian attempt to overthrow this successor Government would have to be crushed."

On October 16, Eden and Selwyn Lloyd, met Mr Guy Mollet, the French Prime Minister in Paris, and at the Cabinet meeting on October 18 Eden gave some broad hints that any Anglo-French military action could take place in concert with Israel. He said that if Israel contemplated a military operation against the Arabs, it would be far better from Britain's point of view that they should attack Egypt and he had reason to believe that if they made any military move it would be in that direction.

He had, therefore, told Israel — through the French — that in the event of hostilities the UK would not come to the assistance of Egypt.

ministers under the Prime Minister. It states: "While our ultimate purpose was to place the canal under international control, our immediate objective was to bring about the downfall of the present Egyptian Government."

A meeting of the committee on August 2 shows that an Israeli attack on Egypt was seen as desirable. The meeting was attended by Mr Harold Macmillan (later Earl of Stockton) who died earlier this week. He was then Chancellor of the Exchequer. He said that consideration should be given to the possibility of reaction of Israel to any Anglo-French operation against Egypt. It was important that other Arab states should not come to the aid of Egypt — "on the other hand it would be helpful if Egypt were faced with the possibility of a war on two fronts."

There was another revealing note of a meeting on September 5 of a second Egypt committee staffed by top civil servants, under Sir Norman Brook, Cabinet Secretary. It drew up a draft political directive for the British commander-in-chief of an invasion force.

It emphasised the need for a "well disposed" Egyptian Government in Cairo and said it might well be necessary to occupy the headquarters of any resistance which will be in Cairo and to depose the Government which directed it. The force despatched to Cairo would have to be accompanied by a political adviser and his staff arranged by the Foreign Office.

"Their task as soon as effective military control of the capital has been established will be to bring about the formation of a new Egyptian Government which will disavow Col Nasser's policies, order co-operation with the allied forces and be ready to negotiate an international regime for the Suez Canal. Any Egyptian attempt to overthrow this successor Government would have to be crushed."

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Building societies tread cautious path into new markets

BY HUGO DIXON

THE NEW SERVICES

BANKING
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Overdrafts
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Estate agency
Property transfer
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Insurance advice

BIG BANG came to Britain's towns and cities yesterday. The 1986 Building Societies Act came into force and unleashed potentially the most dramatic changes the retail financial services industry has seen for decades.

How will the societies, which between them control £137bn in assets, adapt?

Many of the partitions which artificially separate building societies from other financial institutions and determine what businesses they may engage in are being removed. Societies will be able to move into four areas previously the preserve of other institutions: banking, investment, housing and insurance services.

This will lead to a new spate of competition, allowing societies to fight back against banks. These have moved aggressively into societies' traditional savings and home loans markets, carving out market share and squeezing margins.

This is good news for consumers: already they are being paid better rates for their savings in the future, they can expect to pay less for personal loans. They will also be able to get more services from a single outlet.

The societies realise they cannot stand still and watch the profits on their traditional businesses being eroded. But they lack both the human and financial resources to move into new markets which are more complicated and riskier, and are taking a cautious approach.

Some are emphasising estate agency, arguing that there are advantages in offering an integrated house-buying service and that estate agents are good outlets for selling mortgages and other financial services.

Others believe estate agency prices are inflated and so are making their major thrust banking services. Yet others are pushing investment services, arguing that the retail customer is becoming sophisticated and wants more than a sav-

ings account. The National and Provincial Building Society has the most ambitious plans: it will be installing share-dealing terminals in its branches and selling personal equity plans.

Whichever way they decide to diversify, all societies will be paying a greater attention to profitability. They are being forced to not only by competition but by the Building Societies Commission, the industry's new regulatory body, which is requiring them to set aside large amounts of capital before they can move into new businesses.

Concern for profits already been given as the main reason behind the record £18bn merger plan between the Nationwide and the Anglia, announced last month. The enlarged society, both parties argue, will be able to get its branches to work harder, cutting unit costs.

If the eight or so second-rung societies, which are too big to be regional but too small to be national, and the countless small societies with no particular speciality see the need for further mergers, rationalisation should proceed fairly smoothly. If not, there could be blood on the floor.

Taiwan's economic growth will hinge on protectionism, \$ rate

TAIWAN'S chances of meeting its economic growth target this year are threatened by its currency's persistent appreciation against the US dollar and by protectionist moves by the US, say economists and government officials Reuter reports from Taipei.

Taiwan has targeted gross national product (GNP) growth at 8 per cent in 1987, after an estimated 10.81 per cent in 1986.

Pressure on Taiwan to further revalue its currency will remain strong this year due to its huge trade surplus with the US, officials said.

The surplus was expected to hit a record \$19.5bn in 1986, up from \$10.2bn in 1985, the officials and economists said.

They said the Democrat-dominated US Congress was expected to introduce bills aimed at reducing imports from countries with big trade surpluses with the US.

Mr Wang Chou-min, vice-chairman of the Government's Council for Economic Planning and Development, said the official growth target assumed an exchange rate of 35 Taiwan dollars to US\$1. "Whether we would maintain the exchange

rate we hope for remains a question," he said.

On Tuesday, the local dollar rose 6 cents against the US unit to 35.50, its highest level since February 9 1981.

If the Taiwan dollar hits 34 to the dollar, then GNP growth will fall to 7.5 per cent and it goes to 33 or 32, then GNP will expand by only 5 to 5.5 per cent, Mr Wang said.

"Our exporters would be badly hurt if the Taiwan dollar continues to rise because they could not compete with their South Korean counterparts in the US market," he said.

The US is Taiwan's largest trading partner. The measures were approved by Parliament on Tuesday and are due to be introduced in early January.

He said Taiwan had revalued its dollar by about 12 per cent against the US dollar since September 1985, while South Korea raised its currency by only about 3 per cent during the same period.

Mr Keh Fei-lo, a senior economist at First Commercial Bank, said export growth would fall to under 15 per cent this year from 30 per cent last year if the local dollar rose to 34 to US\$1.

Total exports were expected to reach a record \$40bn last year, up from \$30.7bn the previous year, and were forecast at \$45.6bn this year, he said.

The Government has announced plans to boost imports from the US and narrow its trade surplus with that country in 1987 by some \$2bn. The US is Taiwan's largest trading partner. The measures were approved by Parliament on Tuesday and are due to be introduced in early January.

The measures include import tariff cuts of up to 50 per cent on some 1,700 foreign goods and allowing imports of beer and cigarettes from the US and the EEC.

Mr Keh said the measures were not enough to head off growing US protectionism and urged more steps be taken, including easing controls on foreign exchange and overseas investment.

He added that otherwise, the local dollar would continue to rise further against the US dollar.

A recent survey by his bank showed that textiles, footwear, rubber and plastics would have difficulty facing protectionism and a stronger Taiwan dollar, Mr Keh said.

Mountbatten challenged military operation

THE LATE Earl Mountbatten, who was First Sea Lord, made a last-minute appeal to Sir Anthony Eden to call off the military operation against Egypt during the Suez crisis. He challenged the Government to sack him, but this was rejected by Lord Hailsham, the present Lord Chancellor who was then First Lord of the Admiralty.

The handwritten letter is a dramatic document amongst the Cabinet papers now released. It is dated November 2, shortly before the British paratroops dropped near Port Said on November 5. Lord Mountbatten, the Queen's uncle, pleaded with Eden to call off the invasion, even though British bombing of Egypt had already started and the assault convoy had left Malta.

He says in the letter that Eden had been aware of his "great unhappiness" over launching military operations, and how much he had hated the plan. He had, however, carried out his orders even though he did not believe that a just and lasting settlement could be worked out under the threat of military action.

"I am writing to appeal to you to accept the resolution of the overwhelming majority of the United Nations to cease military opera-



Earl Mountbatten: plan to turn back invasion

tions and to beg you, to turn back the assault convoy, before it is too late as I feel that the landing of troops can only spread the way with untold misery and worldwide repercussions" he wrote.

Eden telephoned Mountbatten and said he was not prepared to turn back the convoy. Mountbatten then wrote to Hailsham complaining that the navy would have the task of inflicting the main casualties on the Egyptians, but would carry out its orders "however repugnant". Nevertheless, he wanted to lodge "the strongest possible protest of this use of my service."

Cabinet deeply divided over use of force

CONSIDERABLE discussion within the Cabinet over the use of force to solve the Suez crisis is revealed in the papers. Apart from Eden and Selwyn Lloyd, the leading "hawks" included Lord Salisbury, Lord President of the Council.

Surprisingly, Sir Walter Monckton, Minister of Defence, emerges as the chief "dove" opposed to the military operation even though he had to organise it.

He solved his problem of conscience by quietly standing down because of alleged over strain on October 18, shortly before the Anglo-French invasion, but he continued in the Cabinet as Paymaster-General, still voicing opposition.

Salisbury was worried about the attitude of Monckton, and also expressed concern over R.A. (Rab) Butler, leader of the House of Commons, and younger ministers in the Cabinet.

He wrote: "Walter Monckton's outburst at the end of this morning's meeting was, I thought as I am sure you did, both painful and rather disturbing."

"Not that it came as a great surprise. I think that both you and I know that he had for some time had doubts about a firm policy over Su-

ez. But I suspect there will be a measure of support for his views. "Rab is clearly not happy and I gather from what he said to me after the meeting that he had been making inquiries and finds that there are quite a number of others, especially among the younger members of the Cabinet, who have not yet made up their minds."

On September 11 there was a row in Cabinet when the Foreign Secretary reported that the Egyptian Government had rejected proposals for international control of the canal. He said the first option was to proceed with military action even though the US was opposed to it.

But Monckton strongly disagreed. He said any premature recourse to force, especially without US support, was like to precipitate disorder throughout the Middle East and alienate a substantial body of public opinion throughout the world.

On November 4, on the eve of the paratroop landing in Egypt, Monckton, who was then Paymaster-General, called for the military action to be suspended indefinitely and warned his colleagues in the Cabinet that if they decided otherwise "he must reserve his position."

MANAGEMENT

BEFORE Connie Fagzile applied for a job as assistant manager at the South African builders supply company Cashbuild she did a bit of checking up through the bush telegraph. She even travelled from her home in the black township of Dubea, near Springs, a largely Afrikaans-speaking white mining and industrial town on the East Rand, to Sababane, the capital of neighbouring Bophuthatane. There she discussed the company, and especially its attitude towards black employees, with a friend of hers who was employed at the Gabarone branch.

Two years earlier she had left her job at the Institute of Race Relations in Johannesburg to join Corbrik, the country's largest brick maker. The company advertised itself as a progressive equal opportunity employer. But the only black in her department, Connie, a lively, forthright Zulu speaker who is divorced with two children at school, felt uncomfortable with the attitudes of her co-workers and felt she had been discriminated against when she was passed over for promotion in favour of an Indian lady with less qualifications and experience.

"I was unhappy and I felt cheated and oppressed. I decided I would try and get a job with a foreign-owned company. They have a better reputation for real equal opportunity. When I heard that Cashbuild was not only a South African company but controlled by Sanlam, the largest Afrikaner holding company, I nearly gave up on the spot."

Six months after starting work at Cashbuild's new depot at Springs, 60 kms east of Johannesburg, she is glad she ignored her preconceptions. For Cashbuild under Albert Koopman, a 39-year-old Afrikaner who spent two years in Mozambique during the struggle for de-colonialisation, has combined fast growth in profits and turnover with a commitment to a form of worker democracy.

As Koopman tells the story, democracy is the chicken, the egg. In 1982, three years after he started Cashbuild as a subsidiary of the former Kirsch group, he realised that the company was going nowhere. Although the economy generally was benefiting from a gold-backed boom, Cashbuild's profits were falling. Margins were down, sales were sluggish, staff were unmotivated. Koopman, a restless, impatient character with an eclectic appetite for inspiration from sources as diverse as Marx and Sartre to Alvin Toffler's *Future Shock* and Schumacher's *Small is Beautiful*, first set out to question his white managers about the company's poor state.

"I went round all the branches and asked a thousand questions. I found that most of my managers blamed their black labour force for being indolent, unmotivated, unmotivated. When he probed further into their perception of his own management style the response was 'pompous, egotistic, dictatorial and autocratic.' On reflection, Koopman recognised that these were precisely the kind of attributes inculcated by the system under which most whites are educated and brought up in South Africa."

But what concerned Koopman after this sobering experience was the thought that if his white lieutenants thought like that, what was the attitude of black workers. One of the questions he asked black workers on his systematic tour of the 22 branches was "How are you paid?" The standard reply went something like this: "A green van comes round on Fridays. Two men carry a box into the office and I get paid out of that box."

It was a perfect description of how it happened but revealed total ignorance of the way in which that money was earned.

"I realised that what we had to do was somehow restore pride in labour, build up self-esteem and make our employees feel worthy both as people and workers. This meant ending the separation between a worker's purpose and the purpose of work and a subservient, un-

Cashbuild

A step in a democratic direction

Anthony Robinson talks to Albert Koopman (right) about the role of black workers at South Africa's biggest builders supplier

questioning mind, created by years of governmental control."

In 1983 Koopman held his first meeting with black employees. "We looked for the most radical guys and picked out two from each of our 22 branches. Eventually we came up with our first organisational chart with elected branch presidents" representing our 400 staff in the 22 branches. For the first year much of the time was spent on 'tea and coffee issues'—complaints about the indignities of 'petty apartheid'—and demands for more time off for shopping, to attend funerals and so on.

In the meantime Koopman was seeking through direct contacts to get across a "holistic" concept of the company, through diagrams, for example, which put the customer at the apex of a pyramidal structure and stressed the importance of co-operation and team work. The idea was to define the purpose of the game and then

draw up rules of the game." While this was going on Koopman delved into Japanese style "quality circles" and started learning Zulu and reading as much as he could about black culture. "Apart from what I found to my amazement a great similarity between the Japanese and the Zulus, especially in respect of the importance that both attach to social concerns, co-operative labour and attendance, for example, at funerals and other family occasions."

Increasingly Koopman got invited back to the homes of his black workers. "I have eaten donkey meat with golden cutlery brought out for the occasion and been to homes with 15 people sleeping on the floor. It is important to know how your workers live."

He also recalls the day when one of the most militant union members in the company questioned his motivation. After 300 years of white oppression



why should we believe that you are any different," he was asked. At that point Koopman recalls, "I took off my jacket and tie, lay on the floor and told him there was no way we could run a successful company if I was going to be held responsible for 300 years of history all the time." The unionist, totally non-plussed, stepped back. The man, Kaiser Sibhanyu, is now one of the most loyal company members. He has left the union and is now number two in a store which he is expected to take over as manager within the next six months. Indeed, the union's influence is now radically diminished.

This breakthrough on the personal level was matched on a company level 12 months into what Koopman calls the company's "empowerment" programme when the branch presidents' reflecting the wishes of their branches,

rejected the whole concept of representative democracy as embodied in the 'presidents'."

They also rejected the concept of shop stewards and decided that what they wanted was participative democracy.

After further brainstorming sessions workers and management came out with concept they called "venture communication" or venturecom for short. Perceived as a platform for participative shop floor democracy, each branch set up its own venturecom responsible for five aspects of each branch's activity. Introduced in January 1985 the system has an elected member responsible for quality of life, safety, labour, merchandising and operations.

With 91 per cent of the labour force black, of which 60 per cent is illiterate, the only limitation on choice is that workers responsible for the last two areas—merchandising and operations—be literate.

"We did not set out with the aim of black advancement but of making this company profitable. But we have actually created a culture which is conducive to advancement." Koopman claims, backing up his boast by pointing to the 34 black workers now preparing for management positions.

Meanwhile the company, which is well placed to take advantage of the major growth expected in black urbanisation over the next decade, has clocked up an impressive profit record. Net profit before tax per employee has risen from 1983 to 1985 to 6,631 rand in 1986 reflecting sharply higher productivity. Earlier this year the company was floated on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange and over the past four months its shares have rocketed from 1.10 rand to over 4 rand. Some 31 per cent of its employees hold shares.

At present Cashbuild has only around 3.5 per cent of a building materials market worth around 2bn rand (£500m) annually but aims to raise its share to 10 per cent by the end of the decade.

The unconventional form of worker democracy in operation at Cashbuild may not be repeatable elsewhere. But Koopman's experiment is being watched with keen interest by personnel and other managers within the Sanlam group and outside as South African business generally seeks new ways of reducing the alienation and frustration of blacks at the workplace.

and the necessary managerial and financial systems are in place.

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'A fungus thriving in dark corners'

Michael Skapinker reports on absenteeism

YOUR BEST friend is getting married on a day when you are supposed to be at work. What do you do? Don't ask the supervisor for time off, Brian tells his colleagues. He might refuse. Far better to phone in sick, he tells them.

One of his colleagues is a little nervous about this. He wonders whether it's right to take sick leave if you're not really ill. "What do you think is going to happen?" Brian asks him. "They don't rush around in a squad car and whisk you off to hospital for a body scan. It's your word against theirs."

Britain is full of Brian. A 1985 survey by the Industrial Society concluded that absenteeism costs the British economy 200m working days a year. Absenteeism "undermines productivity and profits. It eats away at morale. Far too few people realise that the working days Britain loses through absenteeism render almost insignificant the days lost through trade union disputes," writes management consultant Andrew Sargent in a booklet which accompanies the training video in which Brian appears.

Absenteeism is a sensitive subject, Sargent says. People ARE sometimes too ill to come in to work. And trying to discover whether employees really are as ill as they claim often produces hostility and defensiveness. "Are you telling us that it's illegal to have flu?" asks Brian when his supervisor asks the matter at a group briefing.

While absence from work is often caused by genuine illness, there are other employees who take sick leave to decorate the living room. There are many more who phone in sick when they feel just slightly off colour.

As the video, "Gone Today - Here Tomorrow," points out: "Even the most interesting and stimulating job can lack glamour on a murky Monday morning."

The video shows Brian's supervisor, Dennis, trying to evade responsibility for the high level of absenteeism in his section. "I don't know how many times I've been in here belly-aching about it," he tells the factory manager. "It's like talking to a brick wall. No one does anything about it." Who has done anything about it? "Personnel," Dennis says.

"Why don't they hand out a few warnings?"

That is the principal problem with absenteeism, Sargent says. No one really takes responsibility for it. "Consequently we frequently find that absentee control is vested in personnel specialists, welfare officers or even company medical staff," he says. When employees decide to stay away from work, they often simply phone the company receptionist, or get someone else to do so. "Has Ron phoned in yet?" the factory manager asks Dennis, the supervisor. "Switchboard told me. His wife phoned in. Dicky stomach," Dennis tells him.

Rather than the personnel department, line managers and supervisors should take responsibility for absenteeism, Sargent argues. They are the people who know the employees best and who are responsible for the production of goods and services. "It may not be their job to punish the ungodly or pronounce upon the solution to a long-term case. But it is their job to manage attendance."

By keeping proper records of who is absent and why, and by asking persistently absent employees whether they need any medical or other professional help, supervisors could reduce absenteeism significantly, the video argues. If they know that their immediate superiors are taking a firm but friendly interest in their health, many more employees are likely to make the effort to come in to work.

"Absenteeism is a fungus that thrives in dark corners. The more light and air you throw on it the more you stunt it," the video says.

Sargent quotes a study by the consultation services Acas which shows that absenteeism is lower in small working environments. He says there is also evidence to suggest that manual employees are absent twice as often as office staff and that they, in turn, are off work twice as often as managers. It would be interesting to know whether organisations with profit-sharing or employee share ownership schemes have a lower level of shop floor absenteeism than those which do not.

Gone Today - Here Tomorrow, by Geoff Sainsbury and Vision, Royce Road, Peterborough, PE1 5YB.

Dominant influence

FEW ECONOMIES are so dominated by a handful of large industrial mining and financial conglomerates as that of South Africa. The six major groups—Anglo American Corporation, Old Mutual, Sanlam, Rembrandt, Anglo Vaal and Liberty Life—between them control over 80 per cent of the market

capitalisation on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange as well as a plethora of overseas companies. Apart from this concentrated power in the private sector the state also controls a stable of large para-state corporations, including the electricity corporation, Eskom, the beer and distillation company, the Armscor defence industry complex, the railways, South African Airways and others. The state also spreads its tentacles through the economy with its

comprehensive system of agricultural control boards. This concentration of economic power provides a text book example of oligopoly at work. But, as the example of Cashbuild shows, line management in the subsidiaries of these large corporations often enjoys considerable operational freedom to run their companies. Sanlam, headed by Dr Fred du Plessis who, in the post-sanctions, sleep economy era, has been upon South Africa is probably the Afri-

kaner businessmen with greatest access to and influence in government circles, ultimately controls Cashbuild. Earlier this year Sanlam decided to group its steadily growing industrial, banking, insurance and mining interests into a new industrial holding company called Sankor. The chief executive officers of the principal divisions report to the Sankor board. Cashbuild is a subsidiary of Tradegr, whose chief

executive officer, Mervyn King, is responsible for Sankor's extensive wholesale and retail trading empire. Sankor's interests are heavily in importance when Sanlam bought out Kirsch Trading from entrepreneur Natie Kirsch at the beginning of 1986. According to Etienne Le Roux, Sankor's general manager of finance, managers like Albert Koopman are encouraged to use their entrepreneurial skills as long as the results are satisfactory

and the necessary managerial and financial systems are in place.

The unconventional form of worker democracy in operation at Cashbuild may not be repeatable elsewhere. But Koopman's experiment is being watched with keen interest by personnel and other managers within the Sanlam group and outside as South African business generally seeks new ways of reducing the alienation and frustration of blacks at the workplace.

TECHNOLOGY

Smith gives Merck taste of its own genetic medicine

Stephanie Yanchinski in Singapore reports as the two US companies battle for dominance in Asian vaccine market

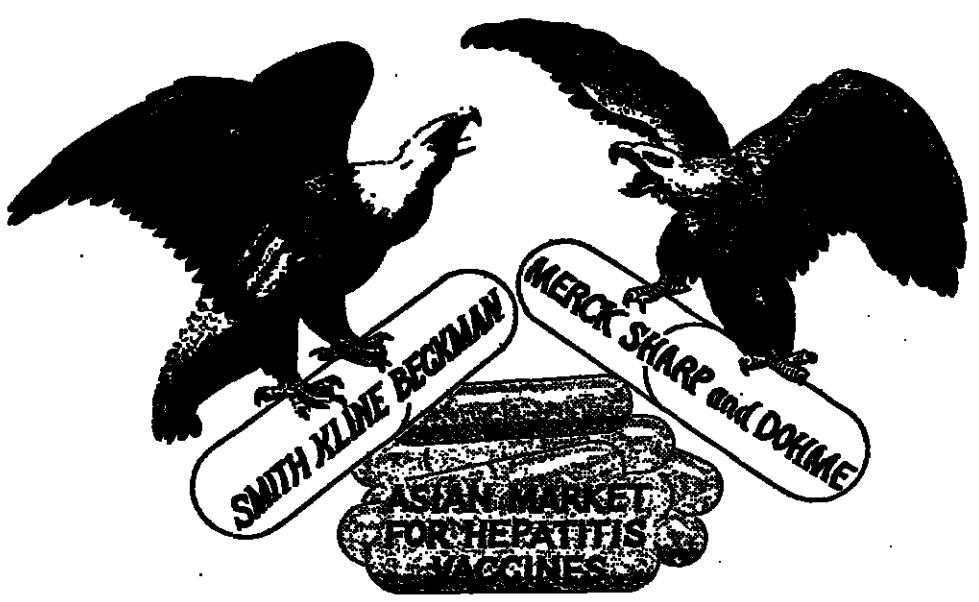
THE approval last month in Europe of a new hepatitis vaccine made by genetic engineering signals the first shots in a battle between two giant US drug companies for markets in the Far East. Smith Kline-Beecham, the Philadelphia-based Smith Kline Beckman, has been awarded a licence to market its Engerix vaccine in Belgium. This, the company expects, will speed up the product's registration in the rest of Europe, Australia, and Canada.

However, the biggest prospective market for hepatitis vaccines is in Asia, where the disease affects millions of people and is a killer. Thus Smith Kline's plans to market Engerix B in South Korea, Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore brings it into fierce competition with the world's number one drug company, Merck Sharp and Dohme, for control of a market currently worth at least US\$100m a year.

Merck was first into the fray with its genetically engineered hepatitis vaccine called Recombivax, winning the coveted approval of the tough US Food and Drug Administration. Marketed as Recombivax II in Asia, the product is already on sale in Singapore, where a fledgling company Singapore Biotech handles its distribution and test marketing.

Although their products are very similar, the two companies have adopted very different strategies for their drive into Asia. Smith Kline wishes to strengthen its already powerful position in Asian pharmaceutical markets by selling its product widely and inexpensively. Dr C. Huygelen, vice president and general manager of Smith Kline Biologicals, predicts a "significant" drop in price as the volume of sales goes up. "In our new, US\$100m plant in Belgium, we can produce the vaccine on such an economic scale that it is expected to come down," says Huygelen.

Merck, on the other hand, expects the price of its vaccine will remain stable, at around US\$100 for three doses, but plans to license its technology to countries in the area which prefer to make and market their own product. Hepatitis B is a serious liver inflammation caused by a virus. Patients suffer from fever, nausea, vomiting, and jaundice. Chronic infection leads to



cirrhosis, and permanent liver damage. More serious still, hepatitis has been linked to liver cancer, which ranks among the top three cancers in the world. There are 300,000 new cases a year, and the disease is almost always fatal.

Of the estimated 240m who

Our manufacturing process is more efficient than Merck's—Smith Kline

carry the virus throughout the world 70 per cent live in Asia, where hepatitis is most often passed on from mother to newborn child. In China, for instance, half of these carriers die of liver-related diseases such as cirrhosis or liver cancer.

Hepatitis is not only a problem of the East. It can be contracted by skin contact with the virus. Doctors, dental workers and other medical personnel in more developed countries therefore face a greater than average chance of contracting the disease, along with other high risk groups, such as homosexuals, drug addicts and prostitutes. The market for hepatitis vaccine in the US alone currently stands at around US\$120m a year.

Previous methods of manufacturing hepatitis vaccines,

however, created unjustified fears among some doctors about the safety of products derived from infected blood. Of those at risk in the US, for example, a third have been vaccinated because of such worries.

For Merck, faced with this intractable marketing problem, and Smith Kline, anxious to consolidate its position in Far Eastern pharmaceutical markets, only genetic engineering provided a way of manufacturing a hepatitis vaccine that would be considered safe and could be produced in large enough quantities.

Both companies developed biotechnological processes relying on derivatives of ordinary baker's yeast grown relatively cheaply in steel fermenters. The yeasts are genetically reprogrammed to manufacture large quantities of a particle called a "surface antigen" derived from the hepatitis virus. Injected as part of a vaccine, this protein particle provokes the same immune response in the human body as a viral infection.

Ordinary yeasts are easy to grow. For example, it takes Smith Kline engineers only a few days to ferment the genetically engineered variety. Harvesting and purifying small amounts of surface antigen requires sophisticated technology, and a little more time. Even so, a batch of vaccine yielding millions of doses can be produced for market every few weeks.

Technical requirements and

regulatory restrictions meant that both companies had to construct state-of-the-art production facilities. For instance, at risk in the US, for example, a third have been vaccinated because of such worries.

However, Dr Michael de

Smith Kline is just being defensive about an inferior product—Merck

Wilde, head of molecular genetics at the Belgian laboratory, claims the Smith Kline process is more efficient than Merck's, and more economically "scaled up" to larger production runs.

The key to these improvements, Dr Wilde believes, lies in Smith Kline's patented method for extracting the minute quantities of surface antigen from the fermentation broth, combined with a way of purifying the product using stacked columns filled with gels.

scientists could experiment with different yeast strains and come up with one that produces more vaccine than any other known variety.

Merck, on the other hand, acquired a ready-made yeast strain from Chiron, a fast-rising genetic engineering company on the West Coast of America. Merck's Dr Peter Ellis claims his company then did a 90 per cent of the additional development work to improve the strain genetically and set up a commercial process. As a result, he says, Merck lifted the yield by an order of magnitude and created a much more powerful vaccine than Engerix B. Recombivax's recommended dosage is half that of the Smith Kline product.

Dr Ellis believes that Smith Kline is being "defensive" in an inferior product, and he says "looking at all of the clinical results, ours appears better than theirs."

Meanwhile, Merck and Smith Kline face competition from at least a dozen other pharmaceutical companies spending millions of dollars on developing the next generation of genetically engineered vaccines. Wellcome Biotechnology, a subsidiary of Burroughs Wellcome of the US is focusing on one of the most promising alternatives made with cells taken from the Chinese hamster. This vaccine may prove to be more immunogenic than those prepared in yeasts.

However, it is unlikely that even these developments will bring down the price to that of conventional vaccines sold at a few cents a dose, which goes against the conventional wisdom that genetic engineering always means cheaper drugs.

For instance, in China, and South Korea a willingness to part with advanced technology could open up markets for other products of the US pharmaceutical companies. Both Merck and Smith Kline are in discussions with the Chinese over joint ventures involving hepatitis vaccines.

WORTH WATCHING

Edited by Geoffrey Charlish



Credit cards: The copybook solution

CARRS PAPER of Birmingham, UK, claims to have made a significant improvement to the three-sheet sets of credit card slips used throughout retailing.

Currently, carbon paper is interleaved with counterfoils to produce copies when pressed against the card in a shop's imprinter. But the information shown can be used to make counterfeit cards—a real security problem in the US. The carbon copies are also dirty, creating problems for shop assistants in retail areas such as clothing and food, for example.

Merck and Spencer, the large UK stores chain, recently tried conventional self-copying "no-carbon" paper but found that the optical scanners it uses could not read the impressions. Even carbon paper strips applied to key areas were tested, but these jammed the reader.

So Carrs, in conjunction with a Marks and Spencer credit card set supplier, Standard Continuum of Birmingham, has developed impression coatings that give perfectly clear results in the imprinter on all three sheets. The coatings are also totally clean. Five million sets have been supplied to Marks and Spencer and these according to Carrs are "working well."

Electronic images put on the slide

DICOMED (UK) has introduced an electronic system which, in a single workstation, combines on-screen facilities for composing pictures and a means of turning the images into high quality 35 mm film slides.

system offers four typesets and 4,000 colours. It uses a microcomputer with a high resolution colour monitor and a graphics tablet to create the images (what is drawn on the tablet appears on the screen). Then, the data goes to a Honeywell 516 recorder which makes the colour slides.

Quick-on-the-draw document storage

HARD ON the heels of KIMM, the image management system recently launched by Kodak of the US, the UK company Rank Chalmers has completed development of a system based on microfilm with quick access, scanning and viewing of original documents on electronic screens.

The apparatus is called Retriever and, like KIMM, it frees expensive office storage space for other purposes and allows quick access to original document images.

Retriever, however, uses 512 eight-inch strips of 16mm film stored round the perimeter of a drum which is rotated to allow any strip to be removed by robot arm and scanned in about six seconds. (Kodak uses cassettes of 16mm microfilm and the average access time for a page is 45 seconds.)

Each of Retriever's eight-inch film strips holds 2,512 A4 page images. The whole "image server" system for storage, access and scanning of over 1.5m A4 documents occupies the space of a four-drawer filing cabinet. The definition is good. Each A4 page image is turned into 4m pixels (picture elements).

The display terminals allow 2mm-high characters to be clearly seen and have memory facilities which can capture four documents and hold them for comparison purposes. Conventional networking or optical fibre connections between storage and workstations are available.

Jaguar screens its mechanics

JAGUAR cars has installed 120 interactive video systems at dealerships throughout the UK as an aid to maintenance of its new XJ40 model.

British Gas monitor pipelines with Husky

Find out how Husky (eds) works!

HUSKY

MANUFACTURERS OF THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL HAND-HELD COMPUTERS

To see how a repair should be carried out, the mechanics select a video sequence by selecting an option from a menu that comes up on the screen. The MIC system interprets the selections made and delivers the video sequence that will make the repair.

Also available is an interactive question and answer training session. Mechanics are quizzed on their knowledge of the car after viewing a video sequence. Their reply determines which sequence of pictures is shown next.

French light way on wheel chairs

FRENCH COMPANY Poirier has reduced the weight of folding wheel chairs to about 12 kgs from the more usual figure of about 20 kgs. The chairs are made from composite plastics, materials and glued aluminium. They have been developed in collaboration with Aerospaciale, the French aerospace company.

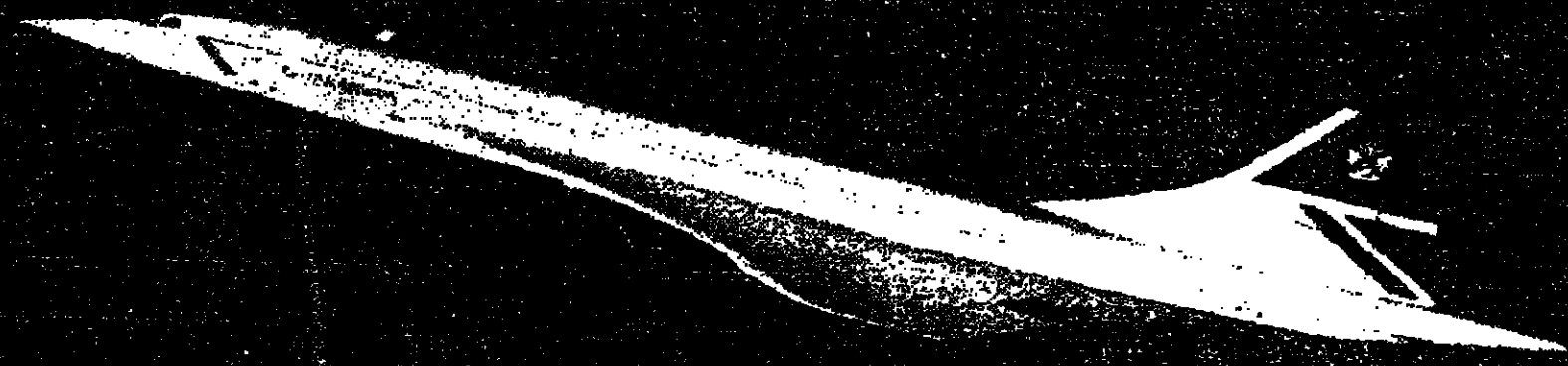
Ceramics start to show more fibre

FIBRE REINFORCED ceramics are the subject of a new report from Technical Insights, the New Jersey, US, high technology information services company.

The report, which technologies, markets, fabrication methods and the applications that are coming to light. For example, Japanese engine research teams are looking at diesel engines with high temperature fibre-ceramic engine blocks that need no cooling or lubrication. Already silica fibre has been developed for space shuttle tiles (designed to withstand the heat of re-entry from space). Materials are even under development to replace the use of metal in castings.

The 225-page report, Fibre Reinforced Ceramics: Advanced Materials for Today's Needs, costs \$45 outside the US.

CONTACTS: Ceram Page: UK, 021 744 2215. Dicommed: UK, 0800 27404. Rank Chalmers: UK, 0520 5634. Videotek: UK, 01 434 3311. Poirier: France, 07 40 070. Technical Insights: US, 201 988 4744.



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Opera and Ballet

LONDON

Royal Opera House, Covent Garden: The Royal Ballet continues its performances of *The Nutcracker*. Royal Festival Hall: London Festival Ballet gives daily performances of *The Nutcracker*. Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue: Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet continues its season with *The Snow Queen* followed by *Coppelia*.

NEW YORK

Metropolitan Opera (Opera House): The week features *Rigoletto* conducted by Thomas Fulton in John Dexter's production with Mariella Davis, Sherrill Milnes, Doro Merande and Dimitri Kavrakos; *La Bohème* conducted by Julius Rudel in Franco Zeffirelli's production with Leona Mitchell, Barbara Daniels and Brian Schmetz; *Die Fledermaus* conducted by Jeffrey Tate with Kiri Te Kanawa, Tatiana Troyanos and Otto Schenk in Otto Schenk's production; and *Madama Butterfly* conducted by Gianfranco Masini in Renato Scotti's staging with Miss Scotti, Vasile Moldoveanu and Lenus Carlson. Lincoln Center (302 6000).

New York City Ballet (New York State Theatre): Following the final seasonal performances of *The Nutcracker*, the company's 55th season continues with repertoire by Balanchine and Jerome Robbins, including two of last spring's world premieres by Robbins, *Circle* and *Piccolo Ballet*. Lincoln Center (870 5570).

WASHINGTON

Washington Opera (Terrace Theatre): The company's season at the Terrace Theatre features Don Pasquale in a new production by Douglas Wager conducted by Cal Stewart Kellogg with Francisco Lopez in the title role, Pamela South as Norina and Graziella Wilson as Ernesto. The 1982 English-language production of *The Abduction from the Seraglio* returns conducted by Arnold Oestman with Joyce Guyer as Constanze, David Kuebler as Belmonte and Kenneth Co as Osmin. Kennedy Center (234 9085).

CHICAGO

Lyric Opera: Lotfi Mansouri's 1981 production of *The Merry Widow* continues with Maria Ewing in the title role, Alan Tins as Prince Danilo and Jerry Hadley as Camille de Rosillon, conducted by Baldo Podic. (332 2244).

VIENNA

Staatsoper: A Summer Night's Dream conducted by Richard La Bohème conducted by Mackerras with Premi, Wise, Dvorak, Hornik, Helm, Die Fledermaus conducted by Neuhof with Ghazarian, Dornes, Lind. (51 444/26 55). Volkoper: Madame Pompadour conducted by Bibl; Der Opernball conducted by Boncompagni; Die Fledermaus conducted by Bibl. (51 444/26 55).

Music

LONDON

Purcell Room (8pm): Eingham String Quartet. Paterson, Stachowicz, Le-toslawski (Mon).
Purcell Room (7.30pm): Tom Black and Susan Tomes, piano and Mar-shine Felle, cello, Janacek, Debussy and others. (Mon).
Wigmore Hall: Trio Finito. Beethoven, Schubert and Mendelssohn. (Mon).
Purcell Room (8pm): Elystan Piano Trio. David Matthews and Ravel (Tue).
Purcell Room (7.30pm): Caroline Dearnley, cello, James Lacey, piano and James Woodrow, guitar. Bartok, Tippett and Kodaly and others (Tue).
Purcell Room (7.30pm): Anne Carewe, cello, Jorge Nestro Serreya and Malcolm Martineau, piano and Elizabeth Layton, violin. Knussen, Liszt, Debussy, Britten and others (Wed).
Wigmore Hall: Robert Hall, bass baritone, accompanied by Andreas Schiffré, Schubert (Wed).
Purcell Room (8pm): Leda Piano Trio. Goehr, Adrian Williams and Wood. (Thur).
Purcell Room (7.30pm): Theodore Ulrich, cello, Julius Drake and Andrew Bottrill, piano and Daniel Rye, clarinet. Poulenc, Berio, Pritterton and others (Thur).
Wigmore Hall: London Handel Orchestra conducted by Danya Darlow. Geminali concerti grossi (Thur).
NEW YORK
Carnegie Hall: Julliard String Quartet. Beethoven, Spohr, Ravel, Mozart (Mon); Ramsey Lewis jazz pianist recital (Tue); Arthur Green piano recital (Wed); Chopin (Wed); Orchestra of St Lukes, Julius Rudel conducting, Jorge Bolet piano. Schumann, Liszt, Dvorak (Thur).
New York Philharmonic (Avery Fisher Hall): Erich Leinsdorf conducting.



Mstislav Rostropovich, who conducts the US National Symphony Orchestra in a Beethoven, Sibelius and Brahms programme at the Kennedy Center, Washington, next week.

Strauss, Debussy, Schumann (Thur). Lincoln Center (874 2424).
Waverly Consort (Alice Tully Hall): George Merdichian. Spanish music of the year 1492, covering court and religious music as well as songs of the wandering Sephardim (Thur). Lincoln Center (382 1811).
WASHINGTON
National Symphony (Concert Hall): Mstislav Rostropovich conducting.
Andre Watts piano. Beethoven, Sibelius, Brahms (Thur). Kennedy Center (254 3776).
CHICAGO
Ensemble A Corda (Orchestra Hall). Bach, Hindemith, Mozart, Reger (Wed. 5.45). (435 8111).
Chicago Symphony (Orchestra Hall): Yoel Levi conducting. Haydn, Roy Harris, Prokofiev (Thur). (435 8111).

Theatre

LONDON

Les Liaisons Dangereuses (Ambassadors): Christopher Hampton's masterly version of Laclos' epistolary novel is sexy, witty and wise, like a collaboration between Marivaux and de Sade. Howard Davies' sell-out, pre-revolutionary production for the RSC has moved from the Pit with Alan Rickman and Lindsay Duncan still battling and bitching over lovers and other affairs. (838 6111, CC 838 1171).
Misalliance (Barbican): Rarely seen Shaw, and a much underrated play, given the full RSC works by John Caird, a Polish new woman crashing into the surrey conservatory in her monocle. Jane Lapotaire sparkles alongside Brian Cox, Elizabeth Spriggs and newcomer Richard McCabe (828 8785, CC 638 8881).
The Phantom of the Opera (Her Majesty's): Spectacular but emotionally nutritional new musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber emphasizing the romance in Leroux's 1911 novel. Happens in a wonderful Paris Opera ambience designed by Mark Rylance. El Fandor alert, affectionate production, contains a superb central performance by Michael Crawford. A new, mercurial and palpable hit. (859 2244, CC 370 6151/740 7300).
Women in Mind (Vandeville): Alan Ayckbourn's new comedy has a brilliant performance by Julia McKenzie as a disaffected housewife visited on her own garden lawn by an imaginary ideal family. Blank but funny, hailed in some quarters as a vanguard feminist drama: but not put off by that. (886 9878/848).
Sunlight Express (Apollo Victoria): Andrew Lloyd Webber's rollercoasting folio has 10 minutes of Spielberg movie magic, an exciting first half and a dwindling reliance on indiscriminate running around. Disneyland, Star Wars and Cats are all influences. Pastiche score nods towards rock, country and hot gospel. No child is known to have asked for his money back. (824 6164).
Quad Street (Drury Lane): No British equivalent has been found for New York's Jerry Orbach, but David Merrick's top-dancing extravaganza has been regrettably received. (836 6168).
NEW YORK
Cats (Winter Garden): Still a sellout. Trevor Nunn's production of T.S. Eliot's children's poetry set to trendy music is visually startling and choreographically felicitous, but classic

only in the sense of a rather staid and overblown idea of theatricality. (239 6262).
42nd Street (Majestic): An immodest celebration of the heyday of Broadway in the '30s incorporates gems from the original film like Sherrill Off To Buffalo with the appropriately brash and leggy hoofing by a large chorus line. (977 9020).
A Chorus Line (Shubert): The longest-running musical ever in America has not only supported Joseph Papp's Public Theater for eight years but also updated the musical genre with its backstage story in which the songs are used as auditions rather than emotions. (239 6260).
La Cage aux Folles (Palace): With some tinsel Jerry Herman songs, Harvey Fierstein's adaptation of the French film manages, barely, to capture the feel of the sweet and hilarious original between high-kicking and gaudy chorus numbers. (757 2523).
I'm Not Rappaport (Booth): The Tony's best play of 1985 won on the strength of its word-of-mouth popularity for the two oldsters on Central Park benches who bicker uproariously about life past, present and future, with a funny plot to match. (238 6260).
Big River (O'Neill): Roger Miller's music rescues this sedate version of Huck Finn's adventures down the Mississippi, which walked off with many 1965 Tony awards almost by default. (346 0223).
The Mystery of Edwin Drood (Imperial): Rupert Holmes's Tony-winning resurrection of the unfinished Dickens classic is an ingenious musical with music-hall tunes where the audience picks an ending. (239 6260).

NETHERLANDS

Grondwaa, Schouwburg. Christmas pantomime (in Dutch) written and directed by Alexander Doré Hasselwanz's Magic Mirror (Tus, matinee Wed). (12 58 45).

CHICAGO

Pump Boys and Dinettes (Apollo Center): Fanciful look at country music and down-home country life with a good beat and some memorable songs, especially one played on kitchen utensils has proved to be a durable Chicago hit. (835 6100).

WASHINGTON

The Marriage of Betty & Boo (Arena): Christopher Durang's latest swipe at domestic life and marriage has an autobiographical air as it dissects three generations of a contempor-

ary American family. James C. Nicola directs a cast headed by Carey Biggs, Donna Soow and Thomas Anthony Quinn. Ends Nov 23.
Les Misérables (Opera House): The American tour that will end up on Broadway early in the new year begins in Washington as a celebration of the British musical's leap beyond its American forebears. Ends Feb 14. (254 3770).

JAPAN

Kabuki (National Theatre) Kanadon Chushinguro (The Treasury of Loyal Retainers). Better known as the revenge of the 47 Ronin, the play is based on an incident in 1702 of samurai revenge for their master's death. The story is basically accurate and is particularly illuminating in what it reveals of Japanese loyalty, "face", form, obligation, vendetta etc. - norms which still underpin Japanese society. This month sees the final in the 3-part series and has star line of Kabuki's best-known actors. English language programme and excellent earphone guide. National Theatre, near Nagasaki and major hotels. (065 7411).
Kabuki (Kabuki-za) Of the various extracts from plays and dances, those featuring famous female impersonators (Yamashiro Bando should draw the crowds. In the morning performance he dances Kyo Kanoko Museum festival dance he is joined by equally famous actors. Kabuki-za, near Ginza. (561 3131).
Case: Revival of the Sank Company's special text production. Excellent set, effects, good dancing and Kabuki tricks and movement compensate somewhat for the lack of characterization and genuine vitality. Nonetheless, worth seeing. Directed by Keita Asari. (320 4000).
The Water Garden, first and best of the trilogy by Shigeo Ono which explores aspects of human nature, relationships, communication by silent theatre. Very pertinent and appropriate to the Japanese. The Water Garden has been seen at many venues outside Japan and is a moving and compelling treatment. Performed by Ono's Tumbel Troupe at their base, T3 Studio, converted from a warehouse. The civilising amenity of a theatre bar, interesting performing space and location and especially a play without language problems all promise a rewarding evening. T3 Studio is near Hikkawadai (Yurakucho Line beyond Ikebukuro). (893 9486).

composition and an explosion of colours. Grand Palais, Closed Tue, Ends Jan 12 (628 6924).

Monde d'aujourd'hui. The spectacular museum of the 19th century is situated opposite the Tuileries Gardens within the metallic structure and the glass-roofed vault of the vast Belle Epoque railway station. It houses paintings, sculptures, objets d'art and photographs from the end of the romantic period to the beginnings of modern art and the Impressionist and Post-Impressionist collections housed in the Jeu de Paume. How they are arranged. Continued on Page 7.

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Exhibitions

PARIS

Estève: After important exhibitions in Germany, Switzerland and Scandinavia, Paris in turn honours the abstract French artist born in 1904. The retrospective consists of 116 paintings, 50 watercolours, nearly as many drawings, some collages and tapestries and shows Estève's development. Influenced at first by Cubism and fascinated by Cézanne, he continues obstinately on his own solitary road until he achieves an equilibrium between a rigorous

composition and an explosion of colours. Grand Palais, Closed Tue, Ends Jan 12 (628 6924).

Monde d'aujourd'hui. The spectacular museum of the 19th century is situated opposite the Tuileries Gardens within the metallic structure and the glass-roofed vault of the vast Belle Epoque railway station. It houses paintings, sculptures, objets d'art and photographs from the end of the romantic period to the beginnings of modern art and the Impressionist and Post-Impressionist collections housed in the Jeu de Paume. How they are arranged. Continued on Page 7.

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The Nutcracker can be understood as a mirror which reflects cracker in the liveliest and most engaging dancing of the afternoon.

FINANCIAL TIMES

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Friday January 2 1987

Japan bites the bullet

FOR SEVERAL years now, Japan has measured the difference between pacifism and militarism in thousands of millions of yen. At last the Government of Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone has bitten the bullet and announced that in the 1987-88 fiscal year defence spending will exceed the 1 per cent shibboleth by .004 per cent.

Mr Nakasone has moved to cross the 10 year old Rubicon because he now has an invincible parliamentary majority and because he senses that the times in Japan have changed. He also is supposed to step down later this year and must have decided to do what ever succeeds him a favour by disposing of a thorny political problem. His desire to do this has been evident for some time, but he has previously lacked the nerve.

Even now, it is worth pointing out that the 1 per cent ceiling is being breached not because of the size of the increase in defence outlays—at a little over 5 per cent in actual terms the planned rise is actually less than the average of recent years—but because the economy has weakened. Indeed, most economists believe that the government's forecast of 3.5 per cent real expansion in the year ahead is distinctly optimistic, which implies that defence will contribute a fractionally larger proportion than budgeted for. Conversely, an economic recovery could theoretically lead to the ceiling unbreached, so small is the margin.

Political constraints

In many respects, adherence to the guidelines laid down by the Miki government 10 years ago has served Japan well, no matter how much Washington has complained that Japan has been getting a free ride on defence. It was imposed at a time when there was not only genuine concern at the levels of government spending in the wake of the first oil crisis but also uncertainty over which directions, beyond the purely economic, Japan might take in the world.

The ceiling, in effect, imposed discipline, as have other guidelines in contemporary Japan, such as the three non-nuclear principles and the limitations on the

export of military equipment. Their values have far outweighed any drawbacks of inflexibility. The most important standard of all, of course, is article nine of the postwar constitution, which renounces external aggression. Throughout his career Mr Nakasone has been conspicuously critical of these political and constitutional constraints and he has succeeded in bending some of them mostly to suit us. But he has not yet generated any discernible great constituency in Japan for re-writing the constitution, a fact which ought to reassure its Asian neighbours and others who suffered at Japan's hands in the last war.

Loosening, albeit slightly, the pursestrings could give a stimulus to the Japanese defence industry, until now a difficult factor. It was noteworthy that Japanese defence contractors were in the vanguard lobbying for Japanese participation in the US Strategic Defence Initiative, finally authorised by Mr Nakasone in the autumn. It is emblematic of the fact that Japan could emerge as a significant, if selective, world supplier of technologically sophisticated military equipment, a prospect that the Western powers will view with mixed feelings.

Civilian control

But it is much less clear that this would bring about a change in the status or influence of the Japanese military. Forty years of peace have left Japan a self-defence force, to use the correct title, with no independent standing in the land. They remain firmly under civilian control and any improvement in their capabilities has been very much within the framework of the US military alliance. Only the darkest conspiracy theorists could see the military today as agents of instability or expansionism.

The lessons of the last war should not be forgotten. Least of all by Japan itself. But it is appropriate for Japan to discard an outmoded shibboleth, the defence spending ceiling, so long as it continues to apply the reasonable restraints by which it has set itself. The budget cuts it has far more to contribute to the world than military might.

Over to you Mr Martens

ONE MIGHT be forgiven for imagining, on the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve, a marked lightening in the step of British officials in Brussels, and a feeling of trepidation coming over their Belgian counterparts. It was the moment when Britain passed on the job of presidency of the EEC Council of Ministers.

There is a myth back in the national capitals of the European Community that the rotating six-monthly chairmanship provides each member-state with an opportunity to leave its mark in Brussels. Very rarely does the myth become reality, and the past six months seem no exception to the rule. It is with relief rather than with positive enthusiasm that the baton is handed on to Belgium.

All the signs are that the coming year — the 30th anniversary of signing the founding Treaty of Rome — will be one of the most difficult to date. It is opening with the drum beats of a threatened trade war between the Community and the US, a battle over farm exports which neither can afford to fight and which would leave both sides worse off if it came to pass.

Behind the wartime talk, from the Community's point of view (but matched by the same sort of problem in Washington) lies a bankrupt budget and the ever more desperate need to reform the lumbering Common Agricultural Policy. With its inability to match soaring farm production with declining world demand, resulting in unsaleable food mountains, the CAP has finally become politically unacceptable as it stands. That is hopeful. The budget deficits have been fudged for too long—the hidden gap between income and expenditure is now estimated at some Ecu 20bn (£14.8bn)—and in 1987 the bill will have to be faced. That is less hopeful.

Painful reforms

Add to that the changing face of the EEC: with the accession of Spain and Portugal just a year ago yesterday, the balance has changed from northern dominance to a north-south split. The real problems of dealing with more cumbersome decision-making, and of finding policies to reconcile the needs of northern industry and

Instinctive view

None the less, there was no agreement on liberalising air transport, a top British priority. The Council of Ministers failed to agree a 1987 budget with the European parliament, and there was no deal either on a five-year programme for EEC research collaboration, to which many pay lip service but few wish to pay cash. And the US-EEC trade war still looms.

At the time of the London summit last month, a senior EEC diplomat remarked that the British administrative machinery seemed like a highly-tuned and efficient engine—running in second gear. Although British policy has undoubtedly moved in a European direction there is still a feeling elsewhere in the Community that London sees the whole exercise in European co-operation as inter-governmental bargaining, a glorified series of bilateral relationships.

All the main topics on the summit agenda—terrorism, drugs, the campaign against AIDS and even unemployment—essentially issues beyond the normal limits of the Community's institutions.

Belgium, on the other hand, is as committed as any to bolstering the Community institutions. It will be a test now whether Mr Wilfried Martens' instinctively European view will prove more successful in solving the major problems of the Community agenda than Mrs Thatcher.

THE GUINNESS AFFAIR

Out come the skeletons

By Clive Wolman

IT WAS EARLY Monday morning five weeks ago that investigators from the Trade and Industry Department swooped simultaneously on the head office of Guinness, the brewing and spirits company, and on six other financial institutions in London and Edinburgh.

The common link between all the targets of the DTI investigation was their involvement in the £2.5bn Guinness takeover battle for Distillers a year ago, the UK's second largest takeover bid and one of the longest and most acrimonious.

"They came out of the night. Two men just turned up in Moscowite fashion and handed us a letter full of legal jargon," Mr Ernest Saunders, Guinness chief executive, said afterwards.

The letter said that the DTI was investigating the possible misconduct of the affairs of Guinness at the expense of shareholders. Since then, no further information has been given by the DTI or by the two external inspectors who were appointed to lead the inquiry.

The investigation is unprecedented both in the size of its target, the world's fifth biggest drinks company, and in the openness of its purpose. Other large DTI investigations have generally been launched while the company was embroiled in an open and unresolved dispute.

But the bitterness of the Guinness takeover battle had faded. There was a brief revival of the arguments in the summer when Mr Saunders decided to become chairman as well as chief executive of the company and to discard a written commitment made during the battle to appoint as chairman Sir Thomas Risk, the Bank of Scotland governor.

However, slowly and painfully, information seeped out about the conduct of Guinness and its merchant bank adviser Morgan Grenfell during the battle for Distillers they fought against Mr James Gulliver's Argyle Group. The DTI investigation appeared to be concentrating on share dealings in the final stages of the takeover.

The investigation, it became clear, was prompted by a tip-off to the DTI from the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) under an exchange of information agreement signed in September.

That focused attention on two US wheeler-dealing financiers who had supported Guinness during its takeover battle. One was Mr Meshulam Riklis, whose Rapid American Corporation distributed Dewars whisky in the US through its Schenley Industries subsidiary. Following the Guinness triumph, its lucrative Dewars contract (yielding profits of about \$30m a year on \$100m sales) was renewed and it was also awarded the US distribution contract for another Distillers product, Gordon's Gin.

The other was Mr Ivan Boesky, the New York merger and takeover arbitrator, and an associate of Mr Riklis. In mid-November, Mr Boesky was unmasked by the SEC for having traded on inside information about impending takeover bids.

In the hope of escaping imprisonment, Mr Boesky talked freely to the SEC about the involvement of others in illicit deals. He even allowed his tele-

phone conversations to be taped. In January 1987, Mr Boesky, who was taking a growing interest in the UK, built up a stake in Distillers and then offered his assistance to Mr Gulliver, shortly after Argyle launched its bid. The offer was turned down.

Guinness has denied any such deal and claimed that the \$100m was an investment and a prelude to future acquisitions in the US. The DTI investigators are not yet convinced. They have been between Mr Saunders and his four powerful independent directors who were recruited in August to placate City opinion during the Risk controversy. They had not been told of the stake, which was taken in May and approved by the board only retrospectively.

As the takeover battle reached its climax in April, both Boesky and Riklis became active dealers in Distillers and Guinness shares to assist a Guinness victory. Mr Riklis, through Schenley, spent about \$80m secretly accumulating a 5.3 per cent stake in Guinness, as to boost the Guinness share price and increase the value of its share offer to Distillers shareholders.

Only on December 11, after the DTI launched its inquiry, Mr Boesky admitted to breaching the Companies Act by failing to disclose its stake after it rose above the 5 per cent threshold on the last day of the bid.

A more damning admission was forced out of Guinness seven days later by two newspaper articles published in the UK and New York. One suggested (wrongly) that the Guinness family, which has a continuing link with the company, planned to take a stake in a limited partnership set up by Guinness to buy back the shares in takeover situations under his control. The other said that an unknown non-US investor owned a \$100m stake in the partnership, 30 per cent of the equity. Guinness had little alternative but to admit that it was the un-

THE KEY DATES

October 1981: Ernest Saunders recruited from Nestlé as Guinness managing director.
 December 1985: Argyle Group bids for Distillers.
 January 1986: Guinness launches £2.2bn counter-bid for Distillers with April 1986 Guinness triumph.
 July to September 1986: Sir Thomas Risk dispute.
 December 1 1986: DTI launches investigation.
 December 11: Schenley admits breaching Companies Act by buying 5.3 per cent Guinness stake.
 December 19: Guinness discloses \$100m stake in Boesky partnership.
 December 27: Guinness/Morgan Grenfell agreement to buy and support its own shares. Open dispute between the two.
 December 30: Morgan Grenfell resigns as Guinness merchant bank. Seelig forced to resign from Morgan Grenfell.

phone conversations to be taped.

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known investor.

The admission added to the suspicions of an illicit deal between Guinness and Boesky during the takeover battle, when Mr Boesky was actively seeking investors for his partnership fund. Guinness has denied any such deal and claimed that the \$100m was an investment and a prelude to future acquisitions in the US. The DTI investigators are not yet convinced. They have been between Mr Saunders and his four powerful independent directors who were recruited in August to placate City opinion during the Risk controversy. They had not been told of the stake, which was taken in May and approved by the board only retrospectively.

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Rayner brings in new blood

The pace of change continues to quicken at Marks and Spencer with the board being strengthened by two new non-executive directors from outside retailing.

Dr David Atterton, a former chairman of Fosco Minsep, the industrial group, and a member of the Court of the Bank of England, was appointed yesterday. Denis Langan, vice chairman of J. Walter Thompson, the advertising agency, is to take his seat in April. They will bring the number of M & S non-executive directors to five.

Until very recently the only way to the top in M & S was to start at the bottom. Quite a few directors, including Lord Rayner, the group's chairman, began their careers stocking shelves in the stores.

Appointment to the board of people with experience outside the group is a development spearheaded by Rayner, the first non-family M & S chairman, who succeeded Lord Seif, grandson of the founder.

Rayner gave notice of the style he was to bring to his direction when he took the chair nearly three years ago. "My job is to manage change," he said, "by breaking with tradition to go outside to hunt a new finance director, Keith Oates."

Rayner's innovations have included in-store credit cards, new lines such as furniture, and large store developments on the edge of towns.

Only this week the group has announced a new foray into the US market with the opening of four women's fashion stores—trading under the name D'Allaire's, which is one of the M & S retailing subsidiaries in Canada.

A few M & S stores will also be opened in the US on an experimental basis.

Although it is 14 years since M & S started operations in North America, the group is

Men and Matters

unruffled over the length of time being taken to get the operation to its liking.

Maxwell's team

Robert Maxwell, who relaxes by watching his own football club Oxford United, has appointed a new senior player to the management team which he assists, loudly and confidently, will expand his international printing and publishing business into a £3bn-plus enterprise by 1990.

John Holloran, aged 42, left the club executive to join the publishing group McCordale, last month after the company was taken over by Norton Opax. He is to be one of two joint executive vice-chairmen of British Printing & Communication Corporation under Maxwell's chairmanship. The other is Jim Sullivan who is based in the RPOC US office.

Holloran is also to be Maxwell's head printer as chief executive of BPOC Printing Corporation. He succeeds Michael Pegg who is retiring for health reasons but remains an executive director.

Holloran, a long-serving McCordale man, tried to fend off the Norton bid last year by a management buy-out. It was during the thick of that epic City battle that he met Maxwell, who bought a stake in McCordale (which he later sold to Norton).

Holloran said he got on well with Maxwell at their first meeting. The two men compared what Holloran had done to develop his company with what Maxwell was doing with the bigger BPOC. Clearly Maxwell did not forget either the conversation or the man.

During the take-over fight it was Holloran's habit to work late into the night at his City flat, sustained by Indian take-away curries. Having known



his new boss a good deal longer than he has I would give Holloran this tip: switch to lobster and champagne.

Leaning curves

Stella Clarke becomes the first woman to head the governing body of a British university as she takes over the chair of Bristol University council.

Bristol has a history of leading the way in the emancipation of women. Just 100 years ago it was among the first universities to admit women on an equal footing with men. In 1928 it was the first to appoint a woman as secretary to the university. Two years later it had the first woman registrar. In 1970 Dorothy Hodgkin became its first woman chancellor.



The protagonists: Ernest Saunders (top) with (left) Ivan Boesky and Roger Seelig

Mr Saunders assured them he knew of no more skeletons in the cupboard and promised to provide daily briefings. In fact Guinness had gone to great lengths to shield the Boesky stake in secret. It was kept just below the limit beyond which disclosure is mandatory. It was to have been listed in the balance sheet merely as an investment. And Mr Boesky, who had been circulating the list of all the earlier partners quite widely, was told on no account to reveal the identity of the largest stakeholder.

But earlier this week, another skeleton fell out after the merchant bank Henry Ansbacher told the DTI about an unusual shareholding. It arose from the moves to boost the Guinness share price during the takeover battle which were orchestrated by Morgan Grenfell's star corporate financier, Mr Roger Seelig.

Mr Seelig had played the leading role in underwriting the Guinness bid and in persuading Mr Saunders to make a new bid after the first was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Mr Seelig persuaded several investment institutions to buy Guinness shares by offering to buy back their shares at a guaranteed price so they would suffer no loss if the stock market price fell. The total value of Guinness, and possibly Distillers, shares bought on this basis is estimated at around \$50m.

Such indemnities have often been given by merchant bankers on an informal basis during takeover battles. They are designed to exploit a loophole in the Company Act provisions which prevent a company from giving any form of financial assistance to the purchasers of its shares. The merchant bank, rather than its client, pays for

the indemnity although typically its costs are recovered through its fees.

But on Monday, it emerged that, at least as far as 2.1m shares were concerned, someone had failed to follow the formalities necessary to sustain this legal facade. Instead Guinness's own money was used directly to buy back the shares at well above market prices under an indemnity commitment given by Mr Seelig. Thus a criminal breach of the Companies Act appears to have been committed, although it is unclear exactly who was responsible. During the takeover battle, the Guinness "war cabinet" met every day to discuss stock market tactics usually comprised Mr Saunders, his finance director, Mr Oliver Roux, Mr Seelig, Mr David Mayhew of Cazenove or another stockbroker, and a lawyer.

Guinness has accused Morgan Grenfell of acting without its authority in using its money to buy back the shares although it must have realised afterwards that £7.5m of its money had gone missing and was tied up in the shares from April to December.

Mr Saunders has now put his position as chairman and chief executive on the line by giving his pledge to the independent directors that he was not involved in any of the dubious manoeuvres to boost the Guinness share price or buy up Distillers shares.

It is quite possible that he preferred to divert his gaze from certain activities. But in most details of the takeover battle he involved himself obsessively. According to one former senior Guinness employee: "He brings a ferocious intensity to the directorate, which could deter a last detail. Once he decided to go for Distillers, he had to win at all costs. The rules were just a hurdle to be overcome. There was too much prestige at stake."

Throughout the battle, few constraints were imposed on him either by his advisers—Mr Seelig was an equally ruthless operator—or his fellow executive directors who are his appointees and have no independent power base. Mr Roux, for example, who is one of several dozen young management consultants on secondment to Guinness.

One of Mr Saunders' greatest achievements at Guinness has been to attract a talented team of middle to senior managers with the help of his considerable charm and an extensive intelligence network used to find out everything about potential recruits. So far he has retained their loyalty and the headhunters have not yet turned the DTI probe to their advantage. Mr Saunders believes that, if he were forced to go, so would most of his senior management team.

Mr Saunders, who is currently taking a break on a Swiss mountainside, is determined to fight. But he could not resist a call for his resignation from the four independent directors, who can expect the backing of major shareholders.

Meanwhile, the DTI investigators must be complimenting each other on the effectiveness of their "cage-matching" as more and more of the parties come forward to make confessions of the wrongdoings on their consciences. The DTI's response has been to widen its investigations, which could delay publication of its final report until 1988, although an interim report on part of the inquiry may be published by the spring.

But if further damaging information emerges without a detailed rebuttal from the directors, the institutional shareholders, who gave Mr Saunders the benefit of the doubt over the Risk affair, are unlikely to be so patient.

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Observer

... Michael Prowse overhears Michel Camdessus, the next managing director of the International

Monetary Fund, rehearsing an unusually frank inauguration address

Vive la fraternité



in order. Vast current account imbalances and wildly oscillating exchange rates are hardly an advertisement for the free market system.

As managing director, I intend to promote the cause of international co-operation and co-ordination with all the vigour I can muster. There has to be more effective consultation among the leading economic powers and stronger surveillance of their policies. It is, after all, the inconsistency of national fiscal and monetary policies that is the root cause of external imbalances and instability.

What form enhanced economic co-operation will take, I cannot yet predict. But what I can say is that some means will have to be found to ensure that large creditor countries bear some of the burdens of adjustment.

At Bretton Woods, Keynes proposed a scheme under which large creditor countries would, in effect, have been charged interest on their surplus balances. The idea was turned down and the IMF has since tried to work a system which starts from the premise that debtors are always wholly responsible for their debts. The world is still living with the consequences.

largely unheeded, suggesting that moral suasion has its limitations.

I intend to investigate more concrete ways of galvanising the private sector banks. It is possible, for example, that fiscal incentives could play a part. Alternatively, as has been suggested before, some form of partial insurance of private sector loans to debtor countries might prove practicable.

Whatever happens, the industrialised world should not lose sight of the fact that it has to find some systematic means of channeling capital to less developed countries.

We in the rich countries will be in a better position to help the Third World if we first put our own macroeconomic house

programmes in the future. The package devised for Mexico was just a beginning.

In Latin America in particular many countries and regimes have lost faith in the IMF. I intend to rebuild the Fund's credibility. As a sort of cross between international banker and policeman, we cannot expect to be wildly popular among debtor nations. But we can and should expect to be regarded with affectionate respect.

The aim at Bretton Woods in 1944 was not to create a financial ogre — an institution to which countries will turn only when at their last gasp.

I have no hesitation, therefore, in announcing that I will

\$711bn against only \$552bn in 1982, the ratio of debt to exports was 136 against 116; and the ratio of debt service to GNP was 5.3 against 4.7.

The undeniable fact is that, while short-run liquidity problems have eased, the long-run burdens imposed by debt have grown more severe. We kid ourselves if we think the much vaunted "case by case" approach to the debt crisis has done any more than buy time.

We also kid ourselves if we believe the political systems of the Third World can withstand decades of austerity. Just imagine what it would have been like to impose a 50 per cent real wage cut in the UK or France in recent years: the riots would have made the recent Paris demonstrations look like a Sunday school outing.

I look forward to working with the World Bank in seeking genuine long-run solutions to this desperate situation. The IMF has suffered from a form of short-termism in the past and I want to see it pioneering constructive, growth-orientated

Brazilian or Nigerian might be better placed than a rich European to convince poor countries of the need for belt-tightening.

This brings me to the policies of the IMF which are obviously more important than my nationality. The most pressing challenge the Fund has faced in recent years is the Third World debt crisis.

I have nothing but admiration for the way Jacques de Larosiere rose to the immediate threat posed by Mexico's de facto default in 1982. At a time when the US Treasury was showing little capacity for economic leadership (James Baker did not arrive until 1985), Jacques assumed an invaluable co-ordinating role and protected the integrity of the world banking system.

But short-run crisis management and long-term solutions are quite different things. I must stress how concerned I am that all the main debt indicators for developing countries have steadily deteriorated since 1982. Total debt outstanding in 1985, for example, was

West Germany has held the top job.

Some will argue that the nationality of the IMF managing director is of little consequence. I disagree. It can be much more than a token of a country's commitment to international economic diplomacy. It is entirely conceivable, I wonder, that we in France are more committed to economic co-operation and co-ordination — not to mention devices like currency target zones — than many of our colleagues in Bonn and London?

I shall do all in my power to ensure that the absurd "Europeans only" rule is dropped before the time comes to choose my successor. It is not just custom and West Germans who have a strong claim on my job. As commentators have stressed, it is bizarre that Japan, the free world's second largest economy, has not yet held the office.

I agree. But I believe it might be even more beneficial if the next managing director came from the Third World — the recipient, so often, of rather austere IMF medicine. A

... and Anthony Harris stumbles across a memo from Chancellor Nigel Lawson's secretary

Time to invent a few more taxes



the City offers us a window of opportunity. Lobbying against our long-standing proposals to reform the tax advantages of institutional saving will never be less effective than it is likely to prove now. This would both raise revenue and could be presented as a further step towards a shareholding democracy.

There is also something of an outcry about excessive use of credit cards. The declining use of cash is a burden on the Exchequer: notes and coins are free borrowing. Cards and electronic transfer are a derogation of the Crown privilege of money issue, or seigniorage. A tax on these transactions might have useful economic and revenue effects. It would, however, mean overriding M0 targets.

Summary
Forecast assumes: 3 per cent growth of GDP and consumer

ways, bridges and other investment which raises land values and, indeed, on changes in planning policy. (It would also be favourably received in the correspondence columns of the FT).

Against this, it would undoubtedly offend the farming lobby (though an EEC-wide, value-based land tax might make a rather poetic contribution to financing the CAP) and would discriminate against one form of wealth as opposed to all others.

C. A value-based property tax. This is in some ways comparable to a land tax and was recently proposed by the Conservative Party as the best available basis for local revenue-raising. This suggests that there would be few administrative problems, but it would surely be more appropriate as a basis for a

widely levied in other countries (see attached studies) and the preparatory work was done in this department, following the favourable Royal Commission report of 1985 and the subsequent tax proposal by Mr Lloyd George (defeated in the Lords).

An outcry over the excessive use of credit cards

It has a number of advantages. The source of tax is inalienable, it has no effect on planning policy, and gives encouragement to bring land into development. It also offers quite a quick financial return on public expenditure on motor-

terms, but ministers may feel that it would carry political risks as an isolated act.

It, therefore, seems desirable to tap a new source of revenue. An extension of the tax base would increase flexibility in 1988 and beyond, enable you to cut mainstream taxes more sharply and might be presented politically as a substitute for the higher rates of income tax.

Three alternatives might be considered:
A. A wealth tax. The subject was studied in some depth 12 years ago and the administrative difficulties then foreseen might be easier to tackle now that financial information is more freely available, as a result of policies of the market. It could also be levied at a low rate. However, it would not be an appropriate way to check emigration by the retired.
B. A land tax. This tax is

reimposed before a general election.

This all suggests the steady-as-he-goes approach (I attach some useful quotations from J. Callaghan). Keep to rather modest forecasts for consumer and government spending; after all, if both overshoot, there is no financing problem.

Oil is fortunately more of a problem for 1988 than 1987, thanks to the delay in revenue collection.

Major taxes
A cautious approach, as suggested here, would not leave room for any large fiscal adjustment (because the exceptional level of consumer spending could not be projected into 1987-88). In addition I have received a copy of a memo from the PM urging a substantial cut in the higher rates of tax to forestall a revenue loss (if all retired executives flee to Florida). This could be a serious medium-term problem. A cut in these higher rates is quite economical in revenue

Reform of the rates

From the Executive Director, Monetary, Professional and Staff Liaison Group

Sir—Your lead article of December 23 "Wrong way to reform rates" opens up a very serious debate, and expresses some opinions which I am not sure that you can justify.

The organisation that I represent has been careful to ask our members about this issue by sending out a questionnaire. Eighty per cent of respondents to the poll supported the four main proposals of the Green Paper. Some reservations however were expressed.

What controls would be instituted over high-spending local authorities? At present, it is a local authority which can spread the burden over domestic and business ratepayers. If the national business rate is set at a fairly low figure then any increase in spending by a local authority would fall entirely on the domestic ratepayer.

The right to levy an additional rate on business premises may be an incentive to unwise spending. Because it is available, local authorities will probably take it up whether they really need it or not. If this levy is used to reduce the "community charge" then it would be fine, but fear that it would not be used for this purpose but spent unnecessarily.

In the determination of the "needs" grant which will decide what the "need" is? Will it be the Government or the local authority? Should be determined by the local ratepayers through their elected local authority. If "need" is decided by Government, then, no matter what its political complexion, the Government may use the "needs" grant as financial blackmail to force a local authority to do what the Government considers "needs" to be done, not what the local electors want to do. "Need" should not be used to carry out Government policies or to fulfil Government objectives.

In all, although MPG supports the Government proposals, it is wary of greater centralisation and greater Government control. We believe that local electors should control their own affairs, although this may be a counsel of perfection in a situation in which 42 per cent of local authority electors are not Government, since the person who pays the piper always, to some extent, calls the tune.

MPG generally accepts that students should be in the area of munity charge provided that this does not become an additional cost on the professional or managerial worker who is trying to further his children's

Letters to the Editor

education but who, because of his income, receives little, if any, assistance from the Government in the form of student grants. MPG supports the proposal that these with two homes should pay an additional "community charge" in the area of their second home.

MPG generally supports the Green Paper as a constructive attempt to improve payment for local government.

Wiltford Apinal,
Tasstock House, WCL

Buildings in the City

From Honor Chapman

Sir—Most of us would readily agree with C. Douglas Woodward's view "Buildings in the City" (December 15) that "... new buildings must have some respect for their neighbours and the character of the City." In practice the aesthetic and amenity aspects of large buildings are open to a broad spectrum of interpretation. It is certainly questionable whether they make the City "an increasingly less attractive place in which to work."

Mr Woodward falls however, to address the central issue facing the City, and indeed the national economy, which is the nature of "competitors" requirements. In practice the aesthetic and amenity aspects of large buildings are open to a broad spectrum of interpretation. It is certainly questionable whether they make the City "an increasingly less attractive place in which to work."

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Beastliness in Woking

From Mr M. Rothwell

Sir—Your feature on the proper centre for the young (Norwich Union (December 19)) will have fascinated the scores of thousands of people who have seen that company lay waste at least one community, Woking. In the space of a very few years an unremarkable but pleasant little Victorian town has been systematically levelled. Norwich Union has thrown up over its bones an agglomeration of coldly commercial architectural beastliness.

As a result a considerable population has nothing to enjoy but several million square feet of office space, much of which is standing empty, a hotchpotch of mainly second-league retailers, no centre hotel, no proper centre for the young (except pubs), no theatre, no cinema. ... In a word, no soul.

Two new developments are promised. In an attempt to turn a retail desert into a mall, \$2m is to be spent on draping giv. concrete shopping barracks with a kind of glass and wrought from Georgian parrot cage, so transforming the offensive into the ludicrous. And when that has been done, it seems that a modern civic complex that includes the only two first rate amenities in Woking, a library and a swim-

ming pool, are to be used and, in effect, development put in their place. Unfortunately the details of this proposal are still extremely vague; the local authority cares as little for public consultation as the developers for the normal civic decencies.

Mr Martin Oley, Norwich Union's chief estates manager, told you: "We support town centre shopping as a way of protecting against inner city decay." That is a surprising comment from a company that is notorious locally for having turned Woking into a non-place—beret of life, warmth or history, and fast becoming the architectural laughing stock of southern England.

Like many other people who live near Woking but have to go to Guildford to find good shops in a human townscape, I have no axe to grind other than sadness and indignation. Much more of Mr Oley's highly principled development and we shall form a Woking Union and go and ravage Norwich. M. G. Rothwell,
Faversham, Woking, Surrey.

Ideological swamp

From Mr S. Miel

Sir—Claims made by Labour leaders that they will put to work 1m unemployed in their first year of government, must be a commitment of political recklessness.

They may have in mind that period of full employment under Labour, in the aftermath of World War II. This was in the circumstances of a devastated Europe and a Britain both starved of capital and consumer goods for five years or more.

Employment in Britain was cushioned by replacement demand and shop steward domination encouraging overmanpowering. A wonderful opportunity for export development was presented by the European re-building programme. Industrial conflict, however, caused problems at home, making it difficult to cope with our export competitors on price, quality and delivery.

Industry's long-term export objectives were frequently thwarted by reputation of unreliability, resulting in lost opportunities for both industry and employment. So much then for full employment under Labour's short-term policy. Handicapped by the ideological swamp into which Labour has been sucked, it has been difficult to come to terms with the real world of industry and for that matter, its own survival as a viable alternative government. S. John Miel,
12 Chestnut Place, W2.

Company Notices

Viking Resources International N.V.
Curacao, Netherlands Antilles

Notice of Extraordinary General Meeting of Shareholders

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of Shareholders of Viking Resources International N.V. has been called by the Manager, Caribbean Management Company.

The meeting will take place at John B. Gonsiraweg 8, Willemstad, Curacao, Netherlands Antilles on January 23, 1987 at 15.00 p.m.

The agenda includes, inter alia, a proposal to amend the Articles of Incorporation of the Company. The agenda and the proposed amendments are available for inspection at the offices of the Company at John B. Gonsiraweg 8, Willemstad, Curacao or may be obtained from the Paying Agent mentioned hereunder.

Shareholders will be admitted to the Meeting on presentation of their certificates or of vouchers, which may be obtained from the Paying Agent against delivery of certificates on or before January 16, 1987.

Paying Agent:
Pierston, Holding & Pierson N.V.
Haringracht 214
1018 BS Amsterdam
The Netherlands.

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NOTICE OF EARLY REDEMPTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the holders of CRA Finance Limited's Floating Rate Notes due 1992 (the "Notes") are entitled to demand early redemption of the Notes on or after the date of the Redemption Date (as defined in the prospectus for the Notes) at a price of 100% of the principal amount of the Notes plus accrued interest to the date of redemption.

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Correction Notice
LEUMI INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENTS N.V. US\$75,000,000

Guaranteed Floating Rates
Notes Extended and due 1989

The interest rate applicable to the above Floating Rate Notes for the month period commencing 31st December 1986 has been fixed at 5 1/2% per annum.

The interest amount to US\$33.31 per bond of US\$1,000 nominal to US\$33.30 per bond of US\$1,000 nominal will be paid on Tuesday 20th June 1987 against presentation of Coupon No. 16.

Principal Paying Agent
This notice appeared incorrectly in the Financial Times on Wednesday, December 31st 1986.

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Copies of a Half-yearly Report to 4th November 1986 with an Explanatory Memorandum are now available to shareholders from:

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BARCLAYS

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Pursuant to Condition 7 of the terms and conditions of the Bonds, notice is hereby given to all Bondholders that the final instalment of US\$100 in respect of each bond is due and payable on 6th January 1987.

Payment of Coupon No. 118 with reference to the Company's dividend notice issued on the 15th of December 1986, the following information is notified:

Dividend will be paid on or after 15th January 1987 at 10.00 a.m. in cash or by cheque to the registered holder of the Bonds or to any person authorised by the holder to receive the dividend on his behalf.

Legal Notice
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
TO SEND IN PARTICULARS OF DEBTS OR CLAIMS

BULLDOG LIMITED/NELOGATE LIMITED
ALFAPRIS INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
(In voluntary liquidation)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Creditors of the above-named Companies are required on or before the 5th day of January 1987 to send in their claims and addresses, with particulars of their Debts or Claims and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned Bruce Alexander Mathers of Park, Mitchell & Co. A.G., 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 456, 458, 460, 462, 464, 466, 468, 470, 472, 474, 476, 478, 480, 482, 484, 486, 488, 490, 492, 494, 496, 498, 500, 502, 504, 506, 508, 510, 512, 514, 516, 518, 520, 522, 524, 526, 528, 530, 532, 534, 536, 538, 540, 542, 544, 546, 548, 550, 552, 554, 556, 558, 560, 562, 564, 566, 568, 570, 572, 574, 576, 578, 580, 582, 584, 586, 588, 590, 592, 594, 596, 598, 600, 602, 604, 606, 608, 610, 612, 614, 616, 618, 620, 622, 624, 626, 628, 630, 632, 634, 636, 638, 640, 642, 644, 646, 648, 650, 652, 654, 656, 658, 660, 662, 664, 666, 668, 670, 672, 674, 676, 678, 680, 682, 684, 686, 688, 690, 692, 694, 696, 698, 700, 702, 704, 706, 708, 710, 712, 714, 716, 718, 720, 722, 724, 726, 728, 730, 732, 734, 736, 738, 740, 742, 744, 746, 748, 750, 752, 754, 756, 758, 760, 762, 764, 766, 768, 770, 772, 774, 776, 778, 780, 782, 784, 786, 788, 790, 792, 794, 796, 798, 800, 802, 804, 806, 808, 810, 812, 814, 816, 818, 820, 822, 824, 826, 828, 830, 832, 834, 836, 838, 840, 842, 844, 846, 848, 850, 852, 854, 856, 858, 860, 862, 864, 866, 868, 870, 872, 874, 876, 878, 880, 882, 884, 886, 888, 890, 892, 894, 896, 898, 900, 902, 904, 906, 908, 910, 912, 914, 916, 918, 920, 922, 924, 926, 928, 930, 932, 934, 936, 938, 940, 942, 944, 946, 948, 950, 952, 954, 956, 958, 960, 962, 964, 966, 968, 970, 972, 974, 976, 978, 980, 982, 984, 986, 988, 990, 992, 994, 996, 998, 1000, 1002, 1004, 1006, 1008, 1010, 1012, 1014, 1016, 1018, 1020, 1022, 1024, 1026, 1028, 1030, 1032, 1034, 1036, 1038, 1040, 1042, 1044, 1046, 1048, 1050, 1052, 1054, 1056, 1058, 1060, 1062, 1064, 1066, 1068, 1070, 1072, 1074, 1076, 1078, 1080, 1082, 1084, 1086, 1088, 1090, 1092, 1094, 1096, 1098, 1100, 1102, 1104, 1106, 1108, 1110, 1112, 1114, 1116, 1118, 1120, 1122, 1124, 1126, 1128, 1130, 1132, 1134, 1136, 1138, 1140, 1142, 1144, 1146, 1148, 1150, 1152, 1154, 1156, 1158, 1160, 1162, 1164, 1166, 1168, 1170, 1172, 1174, 1176, 1178, 1180, 1182, 1184, 1186, 1188, 1190, 1192, 1194, 1196, 1198, 1200, 1202, 1204, 1206, 1208, 1210, 1212, 1214, 1216, 1218, 1220, 1222, 1224, 1226, 1228, 1230, 1232, 1234, 1236, 1238, 1240, 1242, 1244, 1246, 1248, 1250, 1252, 1254, 1256, 1258, 1260, 1262, 1264, 1266, 1268, 1270, 1272, 1274, 1276, 1278, 1280, 1282, 1284, 1286, 1288, 1290, 1292, 1294, 1296, 1298, 1300, 1302, 1304, 1306, 1308, 1310, 1312, 1314, 1316, 1318, 1320, 1322, 1324, 1326, 1328, 1330, 1332, 1334, 1336, 1338, 1340, 1342, 1344, 1346, 1348, 1350, 1352, 1354, 1356, 1358, 1360, 1362, 1364, 1366, 1368, 1370, 1372, 1374, 1376, 1378, 1380, 1382, 1384, 1386, 1388, 1390, 1392, 1394, 1396, 1398, 1400, 1402, 1404, 1406, 1408, 1410, 1412, 1414, 1416, 1418, 1420, 1422, 1424, 1426, 1428, 1430, 1432, 1434, 1436, 1438, 1440, 1442, 1444, 1446, 1448, 1450, 1452, 1454, 1456, 1458, 1460, 1462, 1464,

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SECTION II - COMPANIES AND MARKETS

FINANCIAL TIMES

Friday January 2 1987

Bryant Properties plc

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Fermenta shares suspended indefinitely

By Kevin Dore, Nordic Correspondent in Stockholm

TRADING in the shares of Fermenta, the deeply troubled Swedish antibiotics and animal health group, is to remain suspended until further notice.

At a crisis meeting of shareholders on Tuesday the company announced that it had been forced to cut its forecast for 1986 profits (after financial items) to only SKr 40m (\$5.8m) compared with the SKr 700m forecast as recently as late October, following the discovery of a series of irregularities and improper transactions in the accounts.

Mr Bengt Ryden, the director of the Stockholm Stock Exchange, said that the financial information delivered by Fermenta was so scanty and uncertain that it was still impossible to make a correct valuation of the shares.

The trading halt would continue at least until the company had furnished further information and until an examination by the Stock Exchange's own auditors into Fermenta had been completed.

The board of the Stock Exchange is expected to meet soon to consider Fermenta's future as a listed company in the wake of the chaotic events that have enveloped the company and its now ousted chief executive and former main shareholder, Mr Refaat El-Sayed, during the last 12 months.

The debate has sent shock waves through the Swedish industrial and financial establishment, concerned not least about its reputation abroad. Mr Ryden has proposed that a special committee of inquiry be established to examine the many issues raised by the Fermenta affair.

First Chicago to acquire Beneficial National Bank

BY OUR FINANCIAL STAFF

FIRST CHICAGO, the major US banking group, is to buy Beneficial National Bank USA, the credit card operation of the struggling Beneficial consumer finance concern, for \$247m cash in one of the largest purchases of a US credit card business.

The deal follows last month's announcement by Beneficial, the country's second largest consumer finance operation, that it would drastically reduce its business after attempts to sell the company failed. Beneficial described the agreement with First Chicago as "the first and a very significant phase" of a restructuring plan first announced in August.

Beneficial National Bank's main business is issuing Visa and MasterCard cards. Of its \$1.1bn in assets at September 30, \$1bn were credit card account receivables, making it the 12th largest issuer of bank credit cards in the US.

First Chicago said it was the fifth largest issuer of such cards with \$3.4bn in outstanding balances on its First Card accounts. The bank expects to complete the purchase in the second quarter of 1987. "We will then fold the Beneficial operation into our existing credit card operation," said Mr Leo Mullins, executive vice-president for consumer banking operations.

For First Chicago, the deal represents an opportunity to broaden its range of credit card products. A substantial portion of the Beneficial business comes from variable interest rate cards, which the Illinois bank does not have because they are prohibited under state laws.

The acquisition by First Chicago follows the purchase in 1982 of Bankers Trust's credit card portfolio, which had \$600m in receivables and 1.1m accounts. Beneficial said that, including settlement of all intercompany accounts, it expects to receive total proceeds of about \$600m. It also expects a pre-tax gain of about \$138m on the sale.

USX to take \$300m charge

USX, the US steel and energy concern known formerly as US Steel, is to take a net \$300m extraordinary charge to 1986 earnings due to the planned redemption on March 1 of its Marathon Oil unit's 12 1/2 per cent guaranteed notes, due March 1 1994.

The charge arises from the elimination of unamortised original issue discount associated with the notes. The early redemption will retire the entire \$2.5bn outstanding of the notes and was described by Mr David Roderick, USX chairman, as a key element in the company's restructuring efforts, saving \$140m a year in financial costs.

More international company news on Page 21

Solel Boneh subsidiary sold to Bank Hapoalim

BY JUDITH MALTZ IN TEL AVIV

SOLEL BONEH, the major Israeli civil engineering contractor, has sold a subsidiary to Bank Hapoalim, its largest creditor, for \$60m in a deal which has boosted the debt-ridden company's recovery prospects.

The sale, concluded on Wednesday and one of the largest made in Israel in recent years, will reduce Solel Boneh's accumulated debts by an estimated 20 per cent. It will allow it to fulfil the asset-sale deadlines imposed on it by a recovery programme agreed with the Government and the banks several months ago.

The recovery programme required Solel Boneh to sell \$110m worth of its assets over two to three years. The company maintains that following Wednesday's sale it has exceeded this target.

Officials at Bank Hapoalim said yesterday that they had pushed hard for this deal because they feared that otherwise under the pressure of deadlines Solel Boneh would have been forced to sell its assets at unrealistically low prices. They referred to the deal as a "realistic solution" to the problems of a company and its creditor, as it served the interests of both parties.

The subsidiary being sold is Ditur, a property company with holdings throughout Israel. Hapoalim said that it intends to sell off these holdings gradually. The price, according to the bank was set on the basis of "realistic estimates of realisable value."

Hapoalim has asked Bank Leumi Solel Boneh's second largest creditor, to participate in the deal, and is awaiting a response.

Solel Boneh, once ranked among the top half-dozen contractors in the world, suffered a harsh blow last week when Mr Moshe Zanbar, the chairman, resigned in protest at demands by the Histadrut, the giant labour federation which controls the company, that management should fulfil its commitment to pay wage increases in spite of the company's precarious financial situation.

Shearson launches late deal

BY CLARE PEARSON

THE RACE was on in the Euro-bond market on Wednesday to launch the last deal of 1986.

Morgan Stanley International aimed to lead the final issue of the year during the morning with an innovative issue based on the \$4bn floating rate note (FRN) for the UK, issued last September. The two-tranche issue was created by separating out the principal and interest on \$300m of the FRN.

Later, however, Shearson Lehman Brothers International announced it was launching a new collateralised mortgage obligation (CMO), based on mortgages of the US Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation. Invitation letters were sent out during Wednesday evening.

There was little market reaction to Morgan Stanley's deal, as many dealers were

away for the New Year holiday period.

The issue is in the name of a special purpose vehicle called Splits (Separate Pass-Through Lender Interest Transferable Securities).

The principal is represented by a zero coupon tranche, priced at 72 1/2 and redeemable in September 1991 at 90 1/2, the same time and price as the put option on the underlying FRN. The coupon payments are represented by a floating coupon note, priced at 80 1/2, which declines to zero as the coupon runs out. It pays interest at London interbank bid rate (Libid) less an 1 per cent, also mirroring the UKFRN. The first coupon is fixed at 6 1/2 per cent.

The issue may be exchanged for an equivalent amount of the underlying FRN if the investor presents both tranches.

Taken together, the two tranches should track the price of the FRN, which trades close to par. The value of the zero coupon element will rise sharply if interest rates move down, while the value of the coupon notes will respond to the opposite movement in interest rates.

The cost of the combined issue, less the full fees, amounted to 98 1/2. The UK FRN was quoted at around 98 3/4.

No prices of either tranche were available on Wednesday. Shearson Lehman's \$112.45m issue, for Shearson Lehman CMO, has a final maturity in 2018 but, based on the issuer's assumptions about the repayment of the underlying mortgages, its average life is 8 1/2 years. The par-priced issue pays interest at three-month London interbank offered rate plus 3 per cent. Fees total 50 basis points.

Goodyear disposal

Goodyear Tire & Rubber, the largest US tyre concern, is to sell its Motor Wheel unit, based in Lansing, Michigan, to a group led by the segment's management. Terms were not disclosed.

The sale is part of Goodyear's previously announced restructuring programme. Motor Wheel employs about 2,400 people. Separately, Goodyear has sold a package of property assets to SunCar Development, a unit of AEP Group for \$221m.

Transworld liquidation

Transworld Corp, the US hotels and food services group, is to go ahead with a plan to liquidate the company. Its Elitons International unit, due to be sold to UAL, parent of United Airlines for \$88m, will be distributed to a liquidating trust.

Tan Sri Khoo hotels well ahead

BY STEVEN BUTLER IN SINGAPORE

THE publicly traded Singapore hotel interests of Tan Sri Khoo Teck Fust, who has become embroiled in a financial tangle involving the National Bank of Brunei and the Brunei Government, reported a strong profit growth in the year ending September.

After-tax profits at Tan Sri Khoo's Singapore flagship, the Goodwood Park Hotel group, jumped by 67.6 per cent to \$24.5m (US\$11.2m), although turnover fell slightly to \$379.2m. The increased profits came from higher operational profits, increased investment income, and lower taxes, which result from the Singapore Government's economic recovery programme.

Goodwood Park owns three hotels in Singapore, and 53 per cent of the Hotel Malaysia, which itself posted a 56.9 per cent rise in after-tax profits to \$33.2m, while turnover increased by 40.4 per cent to \$810.6m.

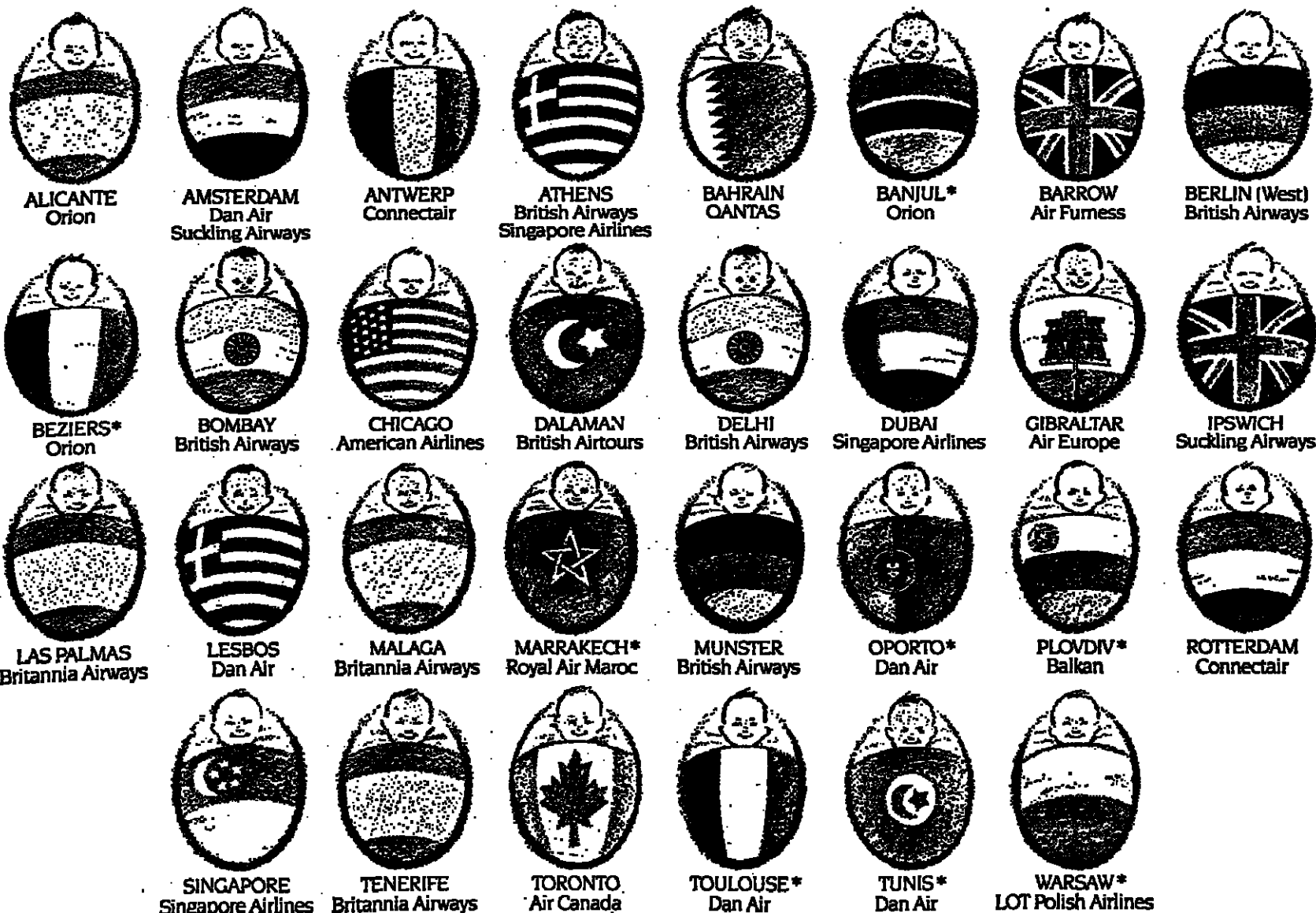
Goodwood Park declared a second and final dividend of 25 cents.

The directors said they expect the coming year to be difficult because of the continued opening of new hotels in Singapore, which has a massive glut of hotel rooms, although they expect some relief due to measures recently taken by the government to boost the industry.

Goodwood Park Hotel and Hotel Malaysia recently reported to the Stock Exchange of Singapore that the National Bank of Brunei had acquired 15.91 per cent of Goodwood's paid-up capital, and 5.14 per cent of Hotel Malaysia. These shares were investments of the National Bank of Brunei, most of which were held by nominees. Registration of the shares in the name of the NBB is now nearly complete.

The Brunei Government seized and closed the NBB, which was 70 per cent owned by Khoo family interests, on November 19, charging that \$81.3m had been lent improperly to the Khoo family companies.

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Placing by Brown, Shipley & Co. Limited of 55,000,000 Series B Participating Preference Shares of \$0.01 each (with provision for redemption and conversion) at £1.10 per Share ("New Preference Shares").

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Particulars of the New Preference Shares are available in the Exel Statistical Services and copies may be obtained during normal business hours on any weekday (excluding Saturdays and public holidays) up to and including 16th January, 1987 from:

Great Western Resources Inc.,
Suite 900,
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Brown, Shipley & Co. Limited,
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London EC2R 7HE.

W. H. Stentford & Co.,
Woodland House,
Collingwood Road,
Witham, Essex CM8 2BR.

Greenwell Montagu Securities,
Bow Bells House,
Broad Street,
London EC4M 9EL.

and until 7th January, 1987, for collection only from:
The Company Announcements Office,
The Stock Exchange,
London EC2P 2BT.

2nd January, 1987.

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OPENING OF A SHORT TERM COMPARTMENT AND REMOVAL OF THE EXIT FEE

The société de gestion d'EUROPE OBLIGATIONS adopted at its September 25, 1986 Board meeting, in agreement with the fund custodian, a revision of the prospectus of EUROPE OBLIGATIONS, the change taking effect on January 1st, 1987. The main feature of the revision is the opening of a short term compartment in the fund. The fund will then include:

- a short term compartment, offering an ECU short term performance,
- a long term compartment, composed of the present fund.

Furthermore, the exit fee will be removed at the same date. The fund will now have the following denomination:

EUROPE OBLIGATIONS
FONDS COMMUN DE PLACEMENT
A COMPARTIMENTS MULTIPLES
LIBELLÉ EN ECU
Luxembourg.

This measure reflects the Board's desire to provide subscribers and units holders with a modern instrument enabling them to change their position at any moment in accordance with their view of the market's evolution, by converting one compartment's units into those of the other at no charge.

Starting on January 1st 1987, holders will be able to exchange their existing certificates (coupons n° 14 and following attached) for EUROPE OBLIGATIONS LONG TERM certificates (coupons n° 1 and following attached) at any of the following institutions:

- Caisse d'épargne de l'Etat du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg,
- Banque de l'Union européenne,
- Banque générale du Pérou,
- Caisse centrale des banques populaires,
- Caisse des dépôts et consignations,
- Deutsche Girozentrale - Deutsche Kommunalbank.

The revised prospectus of EUROPE OBLIGATIONS has been published in French in the Mémorial, Journal officiel du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg, dated December 19, 1986. It is available at the institutions listed above.

Registered office:
8, av. de la Liberté
Luxembourg.

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(A public limited company incorporated in England
under the Companies Act 1985, Registered No. 1974486)

Share capital		
Authorised		Issued
£11,250,000	Ordinary Shares of 5p each	£9,000,164
£ 300,000	8 1/4% £1 Preference Shares	£ 300,000

The above mentioned securities have been admitted to the Official List of The Stock Exchange. Dealings in the securities will commence on 2nd January 1987.

Particulars of Pearl Group PLC are available in the statistical services of Exel Statistical Services Limited. Copies of such particulars relating to Pearl Group PLC may be obtained during normal business hours from the Company Announcements Office of the Quotations Department (for collection only) up to and including 8th January 1987 or during normal business hours on any weekday (Saturdays excepted) up to and including 16th January 1987 from:

Pearl Group PLC
High Holborn
London WC1V 7EB

Hoare Govett Limited
Heron House
919-325 High Holborn
London WC1V 7PB

2nd January 1987

Sarakreek cancels London listing

By Richard Tomkins

Sarakreek, an Amsterdam-quoted US property investment company, has cancelled its London listing for fear that the quotation could make it liable to new US tax legislation.

The company invests in income-producing commercial real estate and manages a portfolio valued at \$318m. It said its decision to delist was prompted by the passing of legislation in the US which could subject it to new taxes unless it could show that its shares were primarily and regularly traded on a stock exchange in its country of residence—that is the Netherlands.

"While the company's management is convinced that its shares are indeed primarily traded on the Amsterdam stock exchange, the unavailability of official statistics on trading volume on the London exchange makes it imperative in the management's view that the company's shares be delisted, thereby removing any possible source of contention," Sarakreek said.

The London stock exchange said it was at a loss to understand Sarakreek's decision. "Dealings in the company's shares were permitted under Rule 505A, which specifically relates to listings for companies where the majority of the shares are traded outside the UK."

"If there had ever been any question of London becoming the predominant market for Sarakreek, the Stock Exchange would have intervened. All the company need have done was to send its tax office a copy of the rule."

Wyndham profits

up in first half

Wyndham Group, with interests in steel fabricating and investment properties, increased its first-half profits by 55,000 to £51,000 and said it was hopeful of a satisfactory full year.

The BMW motor franchisee for Cardiff and most parts of Glamorgan, which specifically relates to listings for companies where the majority of the shares are traded outside the UK.

Furthermore, the engineering order book was back at a high level and the financial services division was continuing to meet its targets.

Turnover for the half year to September 30 1986 improved from £78,000 to £123m. Earnings amounted to 2.38p (2.1p). The interim dividend is a same-again 0.5p net per 15p share.

Warner Holidays

Warner Holidays turned in vastly improved results for the year ended September 30 1986, with the pre-tax profit moving ahead from £79,000 to £104m. Gross revenue improved only from £15.11m to £15.79m.

During the year Grand Metropolitan sold the company to Morris Leisure Group, a new company formed by management and funded by a group of institutional investors.

John Mowlem

John Mowlem has succeeded in its buy-and-liquidate bid for Glasgow Stockholders' Trust. The construction group announced that it had received acceptance from 82 per cent of stockholders, representing just over 79 per cent of the voting rights. The cash alternative has now closed but the share offer has been extended to January 13.

UK COMPANY NEWS

B & C offers for Exco and Steel are unconditional

By Nikki Tait

British & Commonwealth, the diversified investment and transport group headed by Mr John Gurn, has announced that its two recommended bids—for overseas trading company Steel Brothers and for Exco, the money-broking group—had become unconditional.

In the case of Exco, B & C was able to claim to control more than 50 per cent of the shares when it launched its £68m bid in late-November, having received irrevocable acceptances from two major shareholders—Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puat and First City Financial. By the end of 1986, acceptances had been received in respect of 65.5 per cent of Exco's shares.

With Steel Brothers, the board also recommended acceptance, and less than a

month after launching the £90m bid in early December—B & C claimed control. By Wednesday, acceptances had been received in respect of 11.2 per cent of the shares. With its existing holding, B & C and its subsidiaries now control 58.7 per cent of Steel Brothers' shares.

But Tamween Holdings, the Panamanian registered vehicle for the Lebanese Gargour family which owns a 25.5 per cent stake in Steel Brothers and has been arguing for a higher offer, said on Wednesday evening that it would continue to hold its minority stake and seek to improve the offer terms. It has held a significant interest in Steel Brothers since the early eighties.

Three other major institutional shareholders—Scottish

Amicable, Scottish American Investment Company managed by Stewart Ivory and the Co-op—had also not accepted by Wednesday night.

Tamween is now employing Schroders to represent its case, and the bankers said they did not believe the gap between the two companies was large. However, Barings, which is advising B & C, said that no meetings were planned for the New Year, and pointed to the eventual capitulation of the Lebanese minority shareholders when Blue Circle took over Armitage Shanks in 1980.

On Wednesday, it was announced that Mr Philip D'Angelo, an American director of Exco, had sold 1.58m shares at 250p each—6p below the cash alternative.

Blackwood Hodge in US move

By Philip Coggan

Blackwood Hodge, the earth-moving and mining equipment supplier, has made its first US acquisition—the Illinois-based Roland Machinery, purchased for a minimum of \$11.25m (£7.6m).

Roland distributes a wide range of earth-moving equipment, including that of Komatsu, which currently has a 15 per cent market share in the US.

Since 1982, Roland's turnover has increased from \$10.7m to \$16.8m, while pre-tax profits

have risen from \$81,000 to \$1m. Net assets at the time of purchase were approximately \$6m, though Blackwood Hodge considers that the market value of Roland's rental equipment was considerably higher than book value.

The initial cash consideration will be \$7.25m and further payments of \$4m will be paid over the next three years. In addition, up to \$3.25m will be payable dependent on profits performance.

Since 1983, Blackwood has

recovered from a £20.6m pre-tax loss. Under Mr Kenneth Scobie, managing director, it is now embarking on an expansion programme.

In June, Blackwood failed in a £18m bid for Benford Concrete. The following month, it raised \$12.5m via a two-for-five rights issue.

The group said yesterday that though UK export and domestic markets had been weaker than envisaged, most other areas were trading satisfactorily in the second half in local currency terms.

Simon in £1.4m US acquisition

Simon Engineering, currently fighting off a £173m management "buy-in" from Valuedale, has bought Ladder Towers of the US for an initial cash payment of \$2.1m (£1.42m).

Ladder Towers, according to Simon, is a leading fire-fighting aerial ladder and tower manufacturer supplying 30 per cent of the US market.

Simon is also paying, not

later than 1991, \$3.4m in cash for property and assets currently used in LT's business. An additional payment in 1991, is dependent on LT's performance in intervening years.

The majority of LT's sales are in North America and the acquisition completed a stage in Simon's strategy in gaining a presence in the firefighting equipment market.

Mr Martin Anderson, of Hill Samuel, Simon's advisers, said LT's pre-tax profits in the year to August were estimated at \$400,000. For the current year a figure of \$1m was expected.

Mr Anderson said Simon had been engaged in talks with LT a considerable time ago and agreement in principle regarding the acquisition had been reached prior to Valuedale's bid.

Polly Peck share transactions

By Terry Povey

MR ASIL NADIR has been registered as a shareholder in the City during this seasonally quiet period by announcing that Restro Investments, the private company through which he holds his commanding stake in Polly Peck International, has raised £272,350 through a series of shares sales and purchases.

In a statement the Jersey-

registered Restro said that it had sold 775,000 Polly Peck shares at an average price of 170.2p and had then bought 600,000 at an average of 174.4p. On Wednesday Polly Peck closed at 180p.

No precise details of the timing of the five transactions involved was given. However,

Restro gave its "own refinancing arrangements" as the reason for the transactions.

Mr Nadir, Polly Peck's chairman, now holds just under 30m shares, 27.6 per cent of the total, in the packaging, mineral water, textiles and electronics group. Almost all, 23.2m of these shares are owned through Restro.

Willis Faber buys US broker for £12.5m

Willis Faber, insurance broker, has acquired McAleer Associates, a surplus lines broker based in Grand Rapids, Michigan, for \$18.5m (£12.5m).

McAleer, which was previously owned by Harleyville Group, made pre-tax profits of \$3.7m in 1985 and had net assets of \$760,000 after payment of taxes. The move strengthens Willis Faber's US activities.

The consideration will be in the form of cash, with a further sum of not more than \$1m payable depending on McAleer's brokerage income in 1987.

For the year to December 31 1986, after tax profits are not expected to differ materially from those reported in the previous year and will be paid to the vendors in the form of a dividend.

Bryson Oil rights result

SHAREHOLDERS took up just under 6.6m shares (62.9 per cent) of Bryson Oil and Gas's £7.1m one-for-one rights issue. Charterhouse Investment Management, the joint underwriters, and Mr D. E. Caspar, chairman and managing director of Bryson, took up the balance.

The Belfast-based, unquoted oil and gas explorer and pro-

ducer, which announced pre-tax losses of £24,078 in the half-year to June 1986, has exploratory interests in the US and South America.

British Empire Securities and General Trust has an interest in 1,188,700 new ordinary shares (about 5.7 per cent) of Bryson. The investment trust has no other holdings in the company.

Aberfoyle buys out minority stake

As part of its strategy of consolidating its Zimbabwe investments, Aberfoyle Holdings is to use 3.7m of its shares to buy out the minority interests in subsidiary Westar Investments.

Westar is a holding company for the 70 per cent stake Aberfoyle has in GMBL Investments,

its Zimbabwe subsidiary. The minority being bought out is held by Globe Investment Trust (14.8 per cent) and Electra Investment Trust (12.7 per cent). Assets being acquired are valued at £3.3m in June.

After completion Globe will hold 8.7 per cent of Aberfoyle and Electra 8.3 per cent.

Pineapple share deals suspended

By Nikki Tait

SHARES IN Pineapple Group, the US-traded dance studio and marketing group headed by Ms Debbie Moore, were suspended on New Year Eve at 12p at the company's request.

The official announcement said only that the suspension was "pending publication of a circular letter."

However, Pineapple is thought to be poised to announce a major acquisition, probably in the consumer services line, early in the New Year.

The company raised £2.1m in a rights issue last May, and reorganisation of its traditional fitness and fashion interests helped halve losses the year to end-July. Directors have forecast a return to profits in the current trading period.

In November, Pineapple also announced the acquisition of Golden Key Promotions, a sales promotion incentives scheme company, at a total cost of £3m of which £500,000 was payable upfront.

MAI lifts stake in LCAH to 29.3%

MAI has increased its stake in London and Continental Advertising Holdings to 29.3 per cent.

The financial services and advertising group on Monday bought a further 300,000 LCAH shares at 115.3p. The computers with its 118p cash offer for the outdoor poster group, and yesterday's unchanged price of 119p.

Rentokil expansion

By Alastair Adams

Rentokil Group, the UK's largest pest control contractor, has acquired Hygiene Management Services and its trade name Disposan from Crest Nicholson.

Providing a dual sanitary dressing disposal and smopre vending service to industry and commerce, Disposan will be integrated with Rentokil's Sanitation division which generated around 10 per cent of the group's total revenues in 1985 and a larger proportion of profits. Rentokil believes that a great range of services in a UK market which the company currently values at £15m and further enhance its expansion overseas.

Hodgson Welsh link

By Clay Harris

Hodgson Holdings has added the first Welsh link to its growing list of funeral directors. The Birmingham-based group is to pay £206,250 for Augustine J. Stone and William Ham, two Cardiff funeral directors under common ownership. Hodgson would add another 500 funerals to take the group's annual total over 8,000.

The company was now on course for 1986-87 turnover at least 30 per cent above the £2.5m target for the year ended October 31, 1986.

Unilever

Unilever yesterday announced that it had completed its \$3.1bn or \$72.50 a share agreed tender offer for Chesebrough-Pond's, the US cosmetics company.

Approximately 95 per cent of shareholders have tendered their shares. Remaining shareholders will receive \$72.50 after Chesebrough-Pond's merges with Unilever US, a subsidiary of Unilever NV, in the next few months.

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In accordance with the provisions of the Notes, notice is hereby given that, for the six months period, 2nd January, 1987 to 2nd July, 1987, the Notes will bear interest at the rate of 6 1/4% per annum. Coupon No. 2 will therefore be payable on 2nd July, 1987 at U.S.\$6.09158 per coupon from Notes of U.S.\$250,000 nominal and U.S.\$32.66 per coupon from Notes of U.S.\$10,000 nominal.

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In accordance with the provisions of the Notes, notice is hereby given that the rate of interest for the next 6 months' interest period has been fixed at 6 1/4% per cent per annum. The Coupon Amounts will be U.S\$31.77 for the U.S\$10,000 denomination and U.S\$24.27 for the U.S\$20,000 denomination and will be payable on 6th July, 1987 against surrender of Coupon No. 4. Manufacturers Hanover Limited Agent Bank 2nd January, 1987

SECURITY PACIFIC CORPORATION

U.S\$100,000,000

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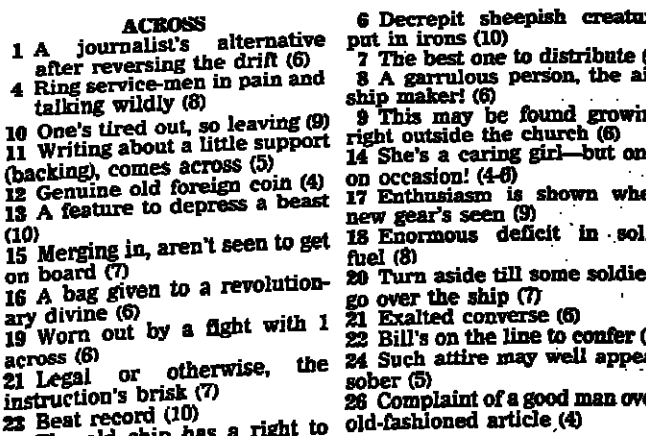
Notice is hereby given that for the Interest Period from January 2, 1987 to April 2, 1987 the Notes will carry an interest rate of 6 1/4% per annum. The coupon amount payable on April 2, 1987 will be U.S\$1,840.03 and U.S\$164.06 respectively for Notes in denominations of U.S\$10,000 and U.S\$100,000.

January 2, 1987
The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A.
London, Agent Bank

NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF MITSUBISHI CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES LIMITED

Source: Warrants to Subscribe the Share of Chemical Industries Limited issued in conformity with an issue of U.S. \$50,000,000 12 1/2% Convertible Debentures Due 1987 Pursuant to Clause 4(b) of the Indenture dated 29th January, 1982 under which the above Warrants were issued, notice is hereby given that on 22nd December 1986, the Board of Directors of the Company resolved to make a free distribution of shares of its Common Stock to the holders of record as of 31st January, 1987, in the ratio of 0.06 new share for each share held.

MITSUBISHI CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES LIMITED
By: The Bank of Tokyo
Trust Company
as Principal
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FT UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE[illegible]**VIXEN**

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[illegible]

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Prov. Sec.	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
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Prov. Sec. 3	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 4	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 5	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 6	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 7	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 8	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 9	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 10	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 11	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 12	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 13	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 14	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 15	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 16	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 17	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 18	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 19	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 20	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 21	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 22	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 23	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 24	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 25	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 26	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 27	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 28	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 29	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 30	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 31	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 32	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 33	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 34	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 35	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 36	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 37	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 38	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 39	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 40	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 41	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 42	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 43	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 44	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 45	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 46	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 47	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 48	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 49	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 50	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 51	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 52	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 53	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 54	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 55	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 56	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 57	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 58	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 59	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 60	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 61	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 62	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 63	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 64	200.2	212.4	+6.1		
Prov. Sec. 65	200.2	212			

[illegible]

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

INDUSTRIALS—Continued[illegible]**PROPERTY** Continued

INVESTMENT TRUSTS—Cont.									
1996 Low		Stock		Price	% Chg.	Div.	Yield	P/E	Ratio
855	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
856	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
857	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
858	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
859	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
860	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
861	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
862	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
863	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
864	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
865	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
866	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
867	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
868	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
869	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
870	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
871	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
872	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
873	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
874	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
875	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
876	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
877	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
878	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
879	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
880	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
881	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
882	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
883	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
884	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
885	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
886	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
887	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
888	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
889	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
890	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
891	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
892	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
893	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
894	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
895	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
896	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
897	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
898	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
899	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
900	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
901	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
902	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
903	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
904	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
905	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
906	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
907	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
908	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
909	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
910	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
911	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
912	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
913	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
914	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
915	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
916	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
917	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
918	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
919	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
920	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
921	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
922	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
923	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
924	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
925	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
926	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
927	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
928	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
929	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
930	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
931	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
932	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
933	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
934	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
935	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
936	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
937	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
938	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
939	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
940	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
941	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
942	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
943	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
944	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
945	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
946	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
947	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
948	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
949	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
950	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
951	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
952	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
953	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
954	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
955	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
956	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
957	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
958	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
959	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
960	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
961	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
962	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
963	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
964	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
965	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
966	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
967	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
968	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
969	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
970	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
971	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
972	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
973	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
974	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
975	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
976	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
977	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
978	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
979	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
980	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
981	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
982	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
983	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
984	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
985	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
986	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
987	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
988	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
989	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
990	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22	1.0	1.8	10.0	1.0
991	146	Investment Co. of America	210	1.7	42.22				

REMARKS Continued

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Moorgate Group Sp	100	—	02.05.23
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[illegible]

70	Soybean Meal 1st	138
71	Soybean Meal 2nd	134

1314	1315	1316	1317	1318	1319	1320	1321	1322	1323	1324	1325	1326	1327	1328	1329	1330	1331	1332	1333	1334	1335	1336	1337	1338	1339	1340	1341	1342	1343	1344	1345	1346	1347	1348	1349	1350	1351	1352	1353	1354	1355	1356	1357	1358	1359	1360	1361	1362	1363	1364	1365	1366	1367	1368	1369	1370	1371	1372	1373	1374	1375	1376	1377	1378	1379	1380	1381	1382	1383	1384	1385	1386	1387	1388	1389	1390	1391	1392	1393	1394	1395	1396	1397	1398	1399	1400	1401	1402	1403	1404	1405	1406	1407	1408	1409	1410	1411	1412	1413	1414	1415	1416	1417	1418	1419	1420	1421	1422	1423	1424	1425	1426	1427	1428	1429	1430	1431	1432	1433	1434	1435	1436	1437	1438	1439	1440	1441	1442	1443	1444	1445	1446	1447	1448	1449	1450	1451	1452	1453	1454	1455	1456	1457	1458	1459	1460	1461	1462	1463	1464	1465	1466	1467	1468	1469	1470	1471	1472	1473	1474	1475	1476	1477	1478	1479	1480	1481	1482	1483	1484	1485	1486	1487	1488	1489	1490	1491	1492	1493	1494	1495	1496	1497	1498	1499	1500	1501	1502	1503	1504	1505	1506	1507	1508	1509	1510	1511	1512	1513	1514	1515	1516	1517	1518	1519	1520	1521	1522	1523	1524	1525	1526	1527	1528	1529	1530	1531	1532	1533	1534	1535	1536	1537	1538	1539	1540	1541	1542	1543	1544	1545	1546	1547	1548	1549	1550	1551	1552	1553	1554	1555	1556	1557	1558	1559	1560	1561	1562	1563	1564	1565	1566	1567	1568	1569	1570	1571	1572	1573	1574	1575	1576	1577	1578	1579	1580	1581	1582	1583	1584	1585	1586	1587	1588	1589	1590	1591	1592	1593	1594	1595	1596	1597	1598	1599	1600	1601	1602	1603	1604	1605	1606	1607	1608	1609	1610	1611	1612	1613	1614	1615	1616	1617	1618	1619	1620	1621	1622	1623	1624	1625	1626	1627	1628	1629	1630	1631	1632	1633	1634	1635	1636	1637	1638	1639	1640	1641	1642	1643	1644	1645	1646	1647	1648	1649	1650	1651	1652	1653	1654	1655	1656	1657	1658	1659	1660	1661	1662	1663	1664	1665	1666	1667	1668	1669	1670	1671	1672	1673	1674	1675	1676	1677	1678	1679	1680	1681	1682	1683	1684	1685	1686	1687	1688	1689	1690	1691	1692	1693	1694	1695	1696	1697	1698	1699	1700	1701	1702	1703	1704	1705	1706	1707	1708	1709	1710	1711	1712	1713	1714	1715	1716	1717	1718	1719	1720	1721	1722	1723	1724	1725	1726	1727	1728	1729	1730	1731	1732	1733	1734	1735	1736	1737	1738	1739	1740	1741	1742	1743	1744	1745	1746	1747	1748	1749	1750	1751	1752	1753	1754	1755	1756	1757	1758	1759	1760	1761	1762	1763	1764	1765	1766	1767	1768	1769	1770	1771	1772	1773	1774	1775	1776	1777	1778	1779	1780	1781	1782	1783	1784	1785	1786	1787	1788	1789	1790	1791	1792	1793	1794	1795	1796	1797	1798	1799	1800	1801	1802	1803	1804	1805	1806	1807	1808	1809	1810	1811	1812	1813	1814	1815	1816	1817	1818	1819	1820	1821	1822	1823	1824	1825	1826	1827	1828	1829	1830	1831	1832	1833	1834	1835	1836	1837	1838	1839	1840	1841	1842	1843	1844	1845	1846	1847	1848	1849	1850	1851	1852	1853	1854	1855	1856	1857	1858	1859	1860	1861	1862	1863	1864	1865	1866	1867	1868	1869	1870	1871	1872	1873	1874	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420	2421	2422	2423	2424	2425	2426	2427	2428	2429	2430	2431	2432	2433	2434	2435	2436	2437	2438	2439	2440	2441	2442	2443	2444	2445	2446	2447	2448	2449	2450	2451	2452	2453	2454	2455	2456	2457	2458	2459	2460	2461	2462	2463	2464	2465	2466	2467	2468	2469	2470	2471	2472	2473	2474	2475	2476	2477	2478	2479	2480	2481	2482	2483	2484	2485	2486	2487	2488	2489	2490	2491	2492	2493	2494	2495	2496	2497	2498	2499	2500	2501	2502	2503	2504	2505	2506	2507	2508	2509	2510	2511	2512	2513	2514	2515	2516	2517	2518	2519	2520	2521	2522	2523	2524	2525	2526	2527	2528	2529	2530	2531	2532	2533	2534	2535	2536	2537	2538	2539	2540	2541	2542	2543	2544	2545	2546	2547	2548	2549	2550	2551	2552	2553	2554	2555	2556	2557	2558	2559	2560	2561	2562	2563	2564	2565	2566	2567	2568	2569	2570	2571	2572	2573	2574	2575	2576	2577	2578	2579	2580	2581	2582	2583	2584	2585	2586	2587	2588	2589	2590	2591	2592	2593	2594	2595	2596	2597	2598	2599	2600	2601	2602	2603	2604	2605	2606	2607	2608	2609	2610	2611	2612	2613	2614	2615	2616	2617	2618	2619	2620	2621	2622	2623	2624	2625	2626	2627	2628	2629	2630	2631	2632	2633	2634	2635	2636	2637	2638	2639	2640	2641	2642	2643	2644	2645	2646	2647	2648	2649	2650	2651	2652	2653	2654	2655	2656	2657	2658	2659	2660	2661	2662	2663	2664	2665	2666	2667	2668	2669	2670	2671	2672	2673	2674	2675	2676	2677	2678	2679	2680	2681	2682	2683	2684	2685	2686	2687	2688	268
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middle prices, are gross, adjusted to

[illegible]

REGIONAL & IRISH STOCKS			
The following is a selection of Regional and Irish stocks, the latter being quoted in Irish currency.			
Albany Reg 200	100	13% YIELD	695
Chang & Zimm Ltd	£24.1	Arco	405
Ennis 100	10	CPN 10%	342
Ferry Post. 50	15	Carroll Bros	41
Irish Coal 50	855	Deane	10
Irish Steel 50	7	Deane & Co	127
		Irish H.R. & L.	282
		Metson Bros	37
		Shannon	270
		Under	270
<p>IRISH</p> <p>Ford 111 1/4 100 1977 100</p> <p>Irish 94 1/4 100 1977 100</p>			

CANADA

OVER-THE-COUNTER

Nasdaq national market, closing prices December 31

Stock	Sales (thous)	High	Low	Last	Chg	Stock	Sales (thous)	High	Low	Last	Chg	Stock	Sales (thous)	High	Low	Last	Chg	Stock	Sales (thous)	High	Low	Last	Chg
SKF&I 1.70	3 45	45 1/2	45 1/2	45 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Triadco 23	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Viacor .08	355 111	11 11	11	11	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed 656 114	23 115	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 3/4	+	Vivint 22	22 28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	+
SPH 50	253 25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	+	Standard 1.20	13 224	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4	+	Trimed											

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SwissCott	16	14	444	13%	13%				
Sunkist	72	4	1820	40%	40%				
TCRYN	26	43	1122	18	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

NATIONAL Semiconductor, the California-based electronics ever, when the group came close to breaking even with a \$7.5m to cover costs associated with layoffs.

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NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE COMPOSITE CLOSING PRICES

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OVER-THE-COUNTER

Nasdaq national market, closing prices December 31

